

## BECK'S 20" vs. 30" Row Corn Population Study – 2010

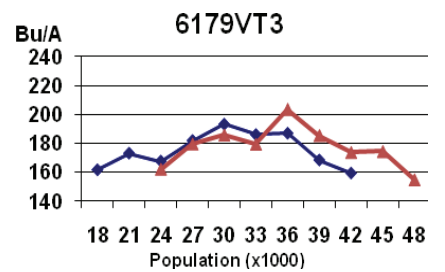
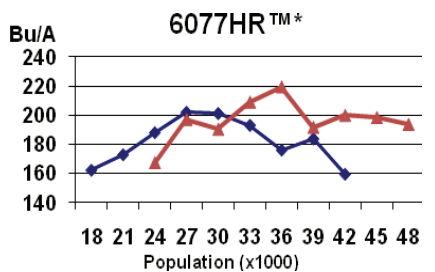
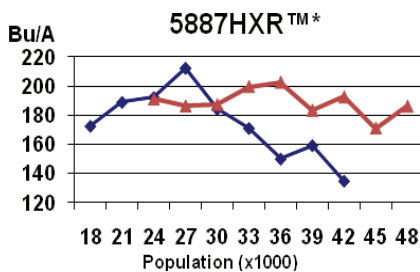
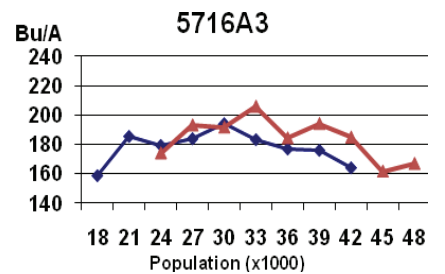
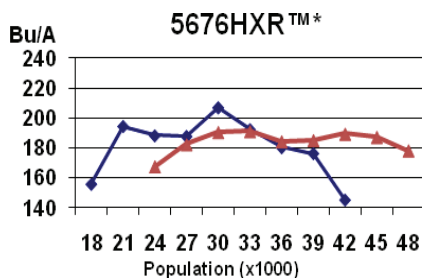
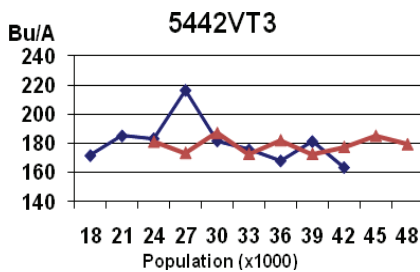
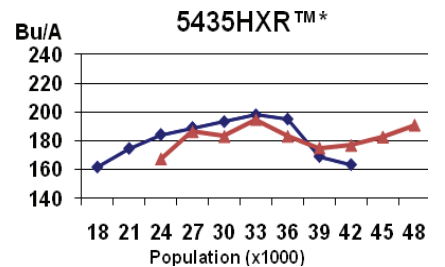
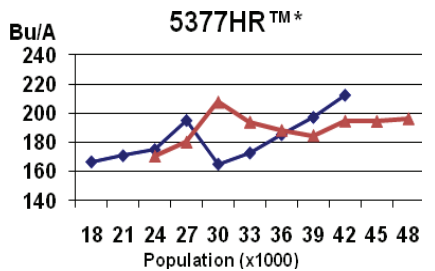
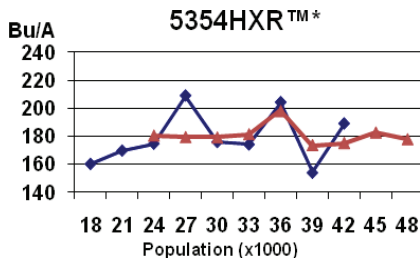
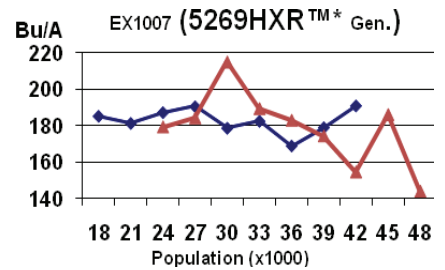
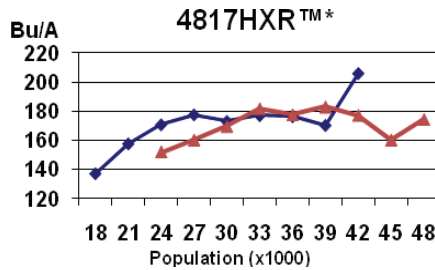
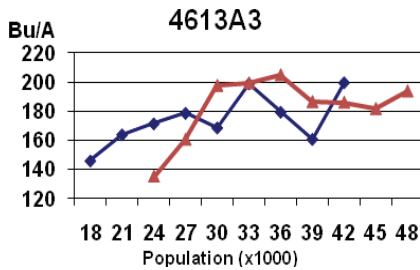
**Location:** F1-F2 plot  
**Planted:** May 24, 2010  
**Harvested:** September 24, 2010  
**Rows:** F1 - Three 20" rows  
 F2 - Two 30" rows

**Population:** Various  
**Soil Type:** Crosby  
**Previous Crop:** Soybeans  
**Tillage:** No-Till  
**Herbicide:** Pre: 3 qts. Lexar  
**Fertilizer:** 68 gal. 28-0-0 Pre-Plant

RAINFALL	
April	2.1 in.
May	4.5 in.
June	11.5 in.
July	4.2 in.
August	3.0 in.
Total	25.3 in.

**Purpose:** An increasing number of farmers have shown an interest in 20" corn rows. This study compares sixteen hybrids in 20" and 30" row spacing at populations ranging from 18,000 to 48,000 to determine the performance difference between 20" and 30" rows and to provide hybrid specific data for farmers planting Beck products in 20" rows. Plots were over seeded and thinned to achieve final populations.

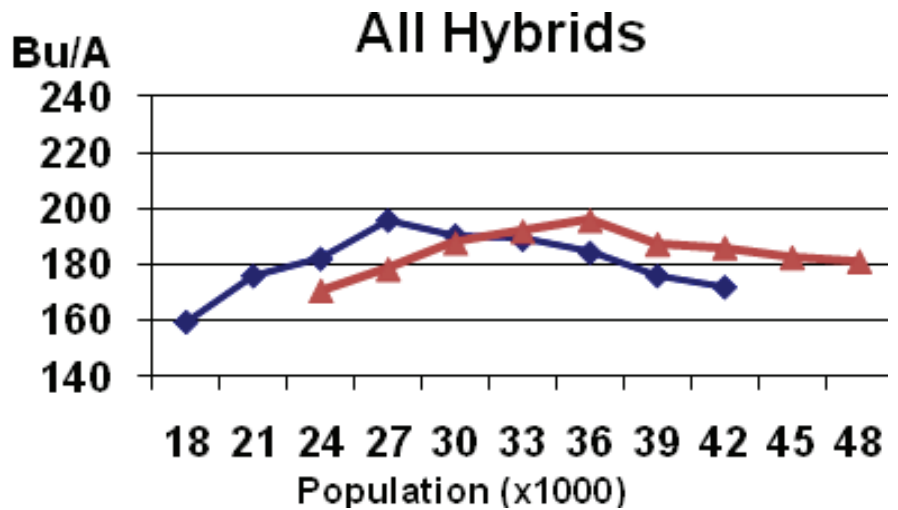
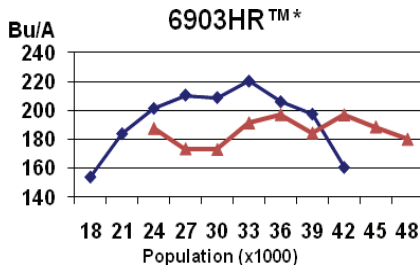
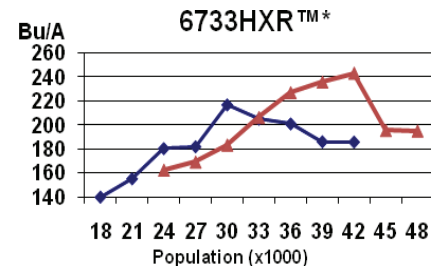
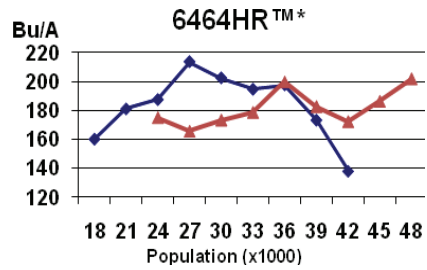
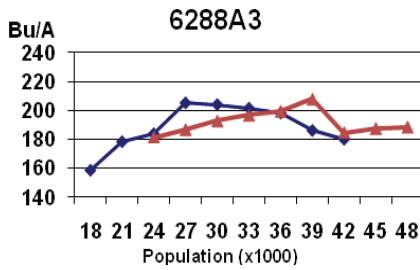
30" Row  20" Row 



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## BECK'S 20" vs. 30" Row Corn Population Study – Cont.

30" Row  20" Row 



**Population Summary:**

Populations and planter configurations have been a very hot topic over the last several years. In general Beck's and the seed industry as a whole have been recommending higher populations to increase whole farm average yields. This study once again shows that higher populations increase yields over low populations, however the hot dry grain fill period did cause yields to tail off at the extremely high populations unlike last year where yields continued to climb even up to 45,000 final stands.

**Summary for 20" vs. 30" Rows:**

At first glance our study shows a slight advantage for 20" rows this year as all hybrids in the 20" system yielded an additional 2.2 Bu./A. over all hybrids in the 30" system. When looking at the 24,000 to 42,000 population range (the population range where both systems overlapped) the 20" advantage came in at 1.2 Bu./A. Both row configurations had very similar looking yield curves when comparing across populations. The 30" study peaked at 27,000 final stand whereas the 20" study peaked at 36,000 final stand. This year's study corresponds with previous year's testing; in general 20" rows can handle higher populations per acre by spreading out the in row spacing. The exact population per row required each year may be somewhat of a moving target, however even in a hot dry grain fill period such as 2010, today's hybrids proved that they can handle the extra population, and in fact, reward growers for planting higher populations.

These populations are all final stands planted on medium-high productivity soils. In general, you should slightly reduce populations in soils with less productivity. Please refer to our population studies from all of our PFR locations, as well as our 2011 Company Profile and Product Guide, to decide the optimum population range for each hybrid.

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