



MIDWEST CROP REPORT | SEPT 25, 2026

LASALLE/DEKALB COUNTIES



Soybean field at 80% leaf drop

WEATHER & FIELD CONDITIONS

It has been a very wet stretch across the area, with more than 6 inches of rain received over the past 10 days, much of it falling within a 2–3 day period. Field conditions have only started to dry out over the last few days. Unfortunately, the forecast is calling for additional rain into the middle of next week, which doesn't provide much encouragement for getting harvest underway locally.

HARVEST UPDATE

While harvest is underway in much of the state, I did not observe any significant harvest activity in my area aside from some seed corn fields being taken off. Corn is still in generally good condition, but stalk quality is beginning to deteriorate in some fields. Crown rots are visible inside stalks near the base of the plant, which could lead to increased lodging as we wait for conditions to improve.

With that in mind, I am encouraging producers to identify fields and hybrids that are more susceptible to lodging and make a plan to prioritize those acres when harvest does get underway. Getting the most vulnerable fields harvested earlier may help avoid additional losses if stalk integrity continues to decline.

Soybeans are still working through the final stages of leaf drop. Most fields I checked are around 70–80% leaf drop. The recent rainfall has also left many low areas of fields saturated or standing in water. I expect some of these ponds to remain for a while, which could leave isolated "soybean islands" behind to be cleaned up at the end of harvest—or leave some additional food for the deer.

COVER CROPS

Cover crops aerially seeded into soybeans around Sept. 9–11 are beginning to establish. Small oat and radish seedlings are now emerging from beneath the leaf litter. A few warmer, sunny days would really help these covers begin to take off, assuming the weather gives them an opportunity.

OUTLOOK

Despite the wet conditions and delayed harvest, I am still expecting average to above-average yields from both corn and soybeans in the area. The immediate challenge is simply getting enough dry weather to get equipment back into the fields, along with some warmer temperatures to help with crop dry-down.

As harvest approaches, patience and safety will be especially important. Conditions may not be ideal, but rushing into wet fields can create problems that last well beyond this harvest season. I encourage everyone working harvest to be safe and patient as we wait for the opportunity to get moving.

Keep scouting and let the field make the decisions.



Cover crops of oats (left) and radishes (right).