



MIDWEST CROP REPORT | SEPT 9, 2026

LASALLE / DEKALB COUNTIES



wind damaged corn stalks in the field

WEATHER & FIELD CONDITIONS

Conditions across the area are currently adequate, with cloudy skies and temperatures around 82°F. While harvest is already underway in parts of central and southern Illinois, there is still some dry down time to go here in north-central Illinois. Crops are continuing to mature, and combines will roll before we know it.

COVER CROP ACTIVITY

Aerial cover crop seeding into standing seed corn has been taking place across the area for the past couple of weeks. These fields have now received one or two rainfall events since application, so I expect to start seeing cover crop establishment and growth in the coming days.

Aerial applications into standing soybeans have also now gotten underway. With crops beginning to naturally senesce and harvest approaching, the timing is setting up for the next round of cover crop establishment.

CORN

Corn is currently around R5, or full dent, with approximately 50% milk line in the fields I checked. Leaf senescence has begun, although most fields still maintain a predominantly green appearance. More advanced fields are beginning to show some ear droop and loosening husks, but the crop is not quite ready for harvest yet.

Tar spot and southern rust did arrive late in the season and have prematurely affected some lower leaves, accelerating the senescence process in affected fields. Stalk quality still appears to be acceptable at this point, which will be important as we move toward harvest.

The area experienced some minor wind damage over the last several weeks. A few fields have sustained enough damage to warrant visits from crop insurance adjusters, but most of what I observed consisted of minor stalk lodging with ears remaining harvestable. Overall, the corn crop continues to look good as it finishes grain fill.

SOYBEANS

Soybeans are beginning their transition toward maturity, with some fields reaching approximately 30–40% leaf drop while most are still in the early stages of yellowing. Pods in the fields I checked are generally carrying three to four beans per pod.

One thing that is becoming increasingly noticeable is the presence of in-season waterhemp escapes. Some fields are showing obvious control issues and potential herbicide resistance concerns that will need to be addressed in future management plans. These fields are a good reminder that aggressive and difficult-to-control weeds like waterhemp require multiple management strategies rather than relying solely on a single herbicide program.

Cover crops can be another tool in that toolbox. Adding a cover crop to the management system can provide another layer of weed suppression and help take some of the pressure off herbicide programs. The goal isn't to replace herbicides, but to build a more comprehensive weed management system.



MIDWEST CROP REPORT | JUNE 2, 2026

LASALLE / DEKALB COUNTIES



Waterhemp escaping a soybean field.

OUTLOOK

The growing season is winding down, but there is still plenty to watch before the combines roll through the area. Corn is finishing grain fill, and soybeans are beginning their transition toward maturity. Late-season disease, waterhemp escapes, and crop damage will all be worth monitoring, while cover crop establishment is getting underway. Harvest is just around the corner.

For more, visit farmland.org/midwest-crop-reports