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[Current Year](#)

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# Pest & Crop Newsletter

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

## IN THIS ISSUE

Issue 21, August 26, 2016 • USDA-NIFA Extension IPM Grant

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### Insects, Mites, and Nematodes

[VIDEO: Bean Leaf Beetle Pod Feeding](#)

## Plant Diseases

Ear Rot Update

## Weather Update

Moisture and Temperature Accumulations



# INSECTS, MITES, & NEMATODES

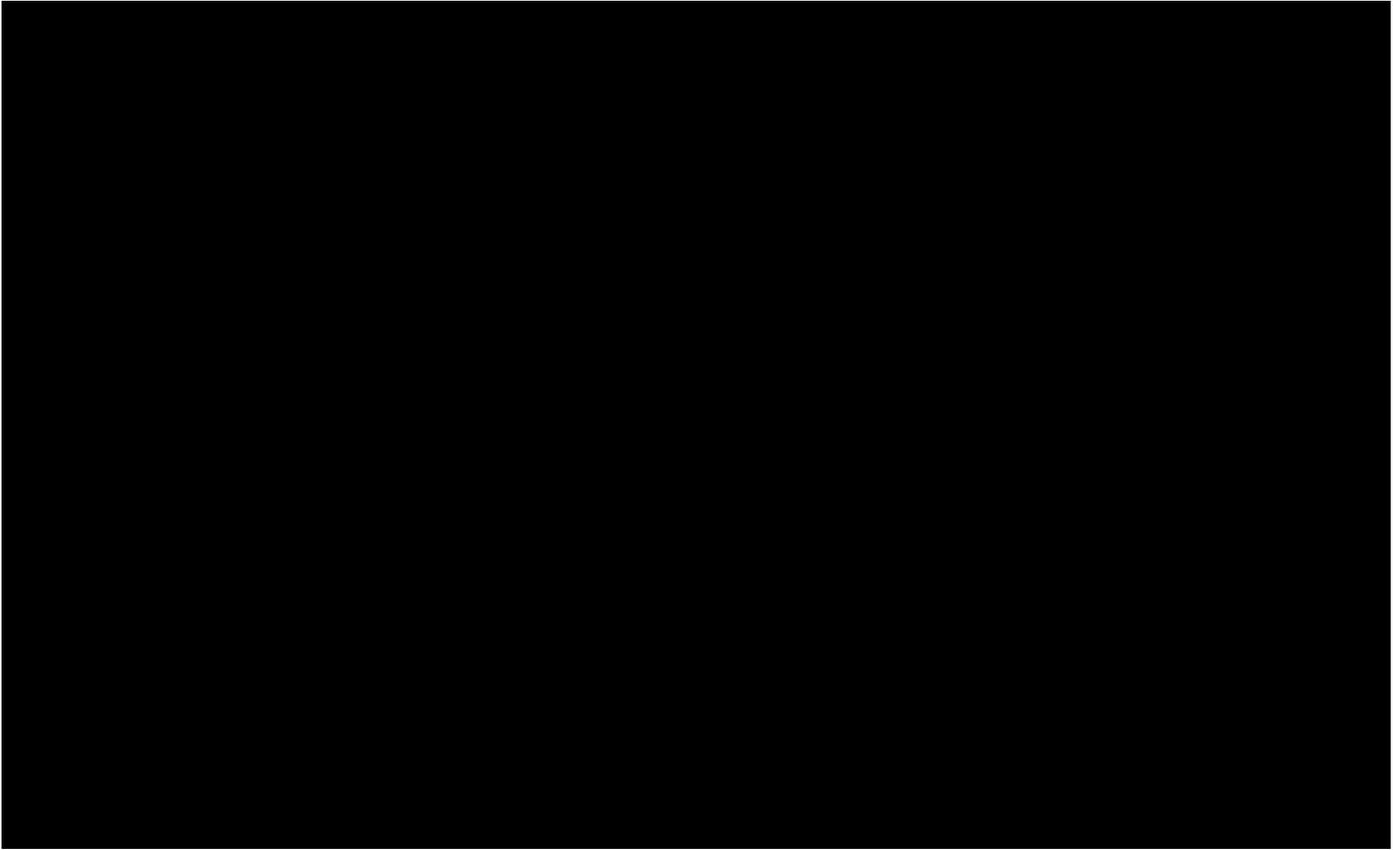
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## **VIDEO: Bean Leaf Beetle Pod Feeding – (John Obermeyer and Christian Krupke) –**

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Soybeans, especially late-planted or late-maturing beans, should be monitored for bean leaf beetle feeding damage to pods. Pest managers have been noting bean leaf beetle feeding on foliage and are concerned about pod damage. Bean leaf beetles scar the surface of pods, but only occasionally feed through the pod to the developing beans. During pod maturation, this scar may crack leaving an entry hole for plant pathogens that may cause discolored, moldy, shriveled, or diseased beans. The following video may help in identifying

the problem and making management decisions:



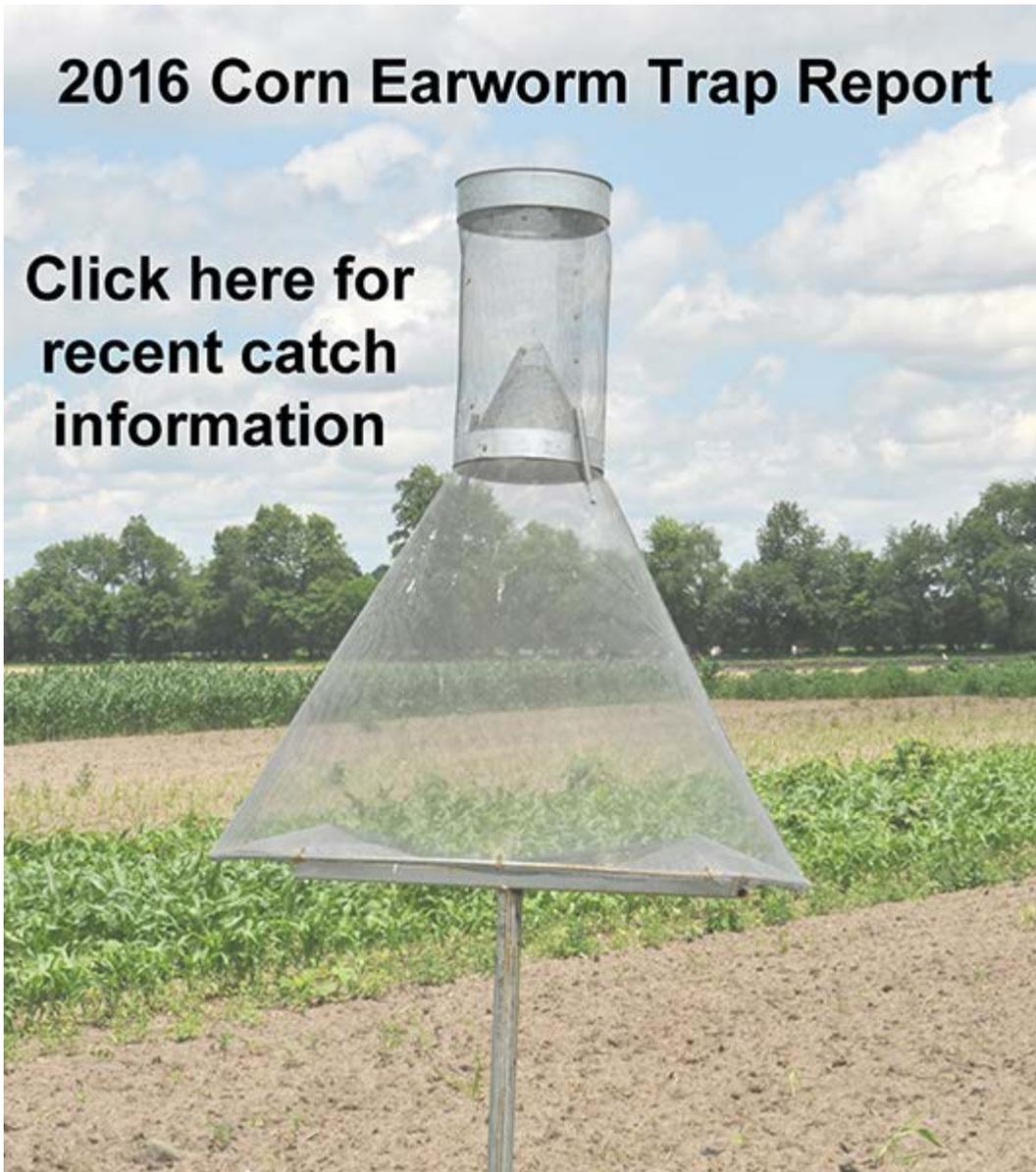
[back to top](#)

## **2016 Corn Earworm Trap Report – (Rick Foster) –**

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# 2016 Corn Earworm Trap Report

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information**



*Corn Earworm Trap Report*

[back to top](#)

A photograph of a yellow crop duster airplane flying over a field. The plane is yellow with red and black stripes. It is flying from left to right. The background shows a line of trees under a grey, overcast sky.

**Plant Diseases**



# Ear Rot Update – (Kiersten Wise and Charles Woloshuk) –

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Diplodia and Trichoderma ear rots have been observed across Indiana. As harvest begins, it is important to identify fields that may have ear rots to ensure timely harvest and proper storage of moldy grain. A different fungus causes each of these rots, and the environmental conditions at and just after silking influence which ear rot may be problematic in a given year.

## **Diplodia ear rot**

Diplodia ear rot is caused by the fungi *Stenocarpella maydis* and *Stenocarpella macrospora*, and is very common in cornfields across the Corn Belt. This fungus survives in residue and infects plants around pollination. Humid weather and rains prior to and after pollination will favor disease development. Diplodia ear rot is identified by white fungal growth on the cob, often forming a mat of fungus across the ear (Figure 1). Infected kernels may also be brown-gray in appearance. Small, black fungal structures called pycnidia may form on the kernels or the cob. Caution is advised if feeding heavily infected grain to livestock.



*Fig. 1 - The fungus that causes Diplodia ear rot produces a white fungal mat on the cob.*

### **Trichoderma ear rot**

Trichoderma ear rot is caused by several different species of *Trichoderma* fungi. Affected ears have blue-green mold on and between kernels on the ear (Figure 2). Trichoderma ear rot can also cause corn kernels to germinate in the husk (called sprouting or vivipary). This disease is common in years when fall is wet and can affect injured ears. Ears with Trichoderma ear rot may weigh less than uninfected ears from the same field. Some *Trichoderma* species have been reported to produce trichothecene-type mycotoxins. Caution is advised if feeding heavily infected grain to livestock.



Fig. 2 - Ears affected by *Trichoderma* ear rot have a blue-green mold on the cob.

## Managing moldy grain

Farmers should scout fields prior to harvest and determine the level of incidence of any ear rot in the field. If ear rots are observed in a field, affected areas should be harvested early and grain segregated to avoid contamination of non-infected grain. Grain harvested with suspected ear rots should be dried to below 15% moisture. If grain is kept above this moisture content, mold can continue to grow, and any mycotoxins present can continue to accumulate in grain. All grain contaminated by any ear rot fungus should be stored separately from good grain, and if stored long term, stored below 13% moisture to prevent further growth of fungi.

More resources on corn ear rots can be found on the following website:

<http://www.cornmycotoxins.com>.

[back to top](#)

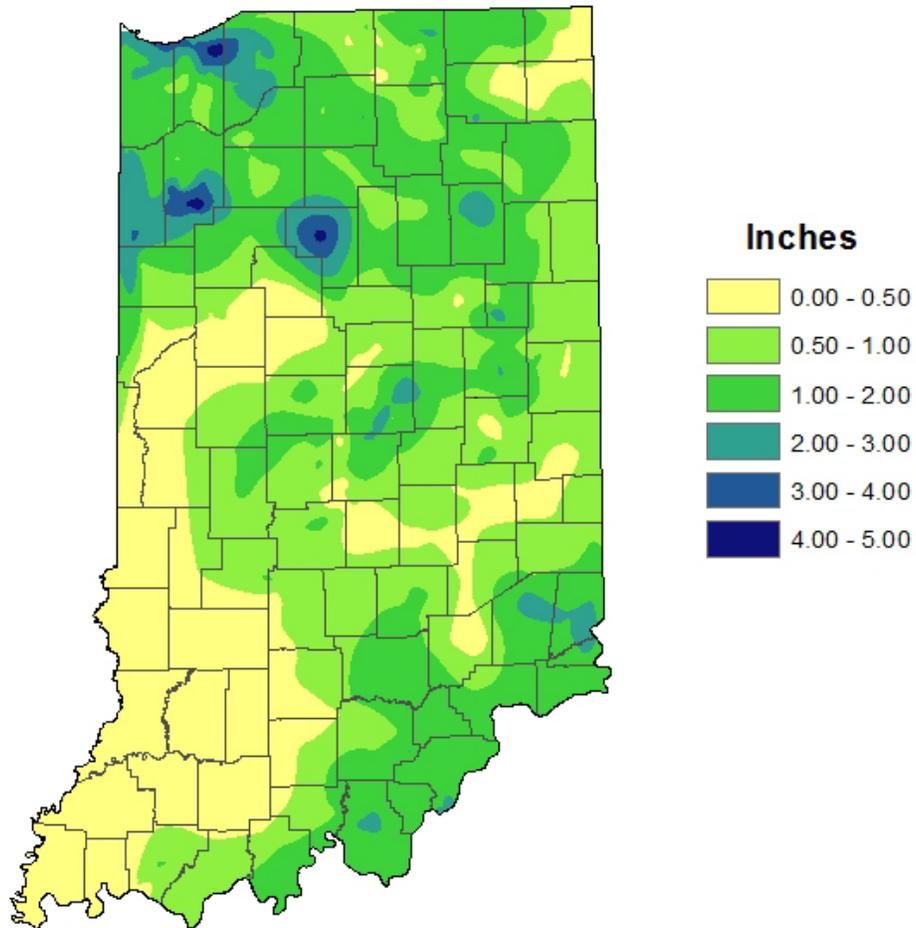
# WEATHER UPDATE

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## Precipitation

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**Total Precipitation  
Aug 18 - 24, 2016  
CoCoRaHS Network  
(391 Stations)**



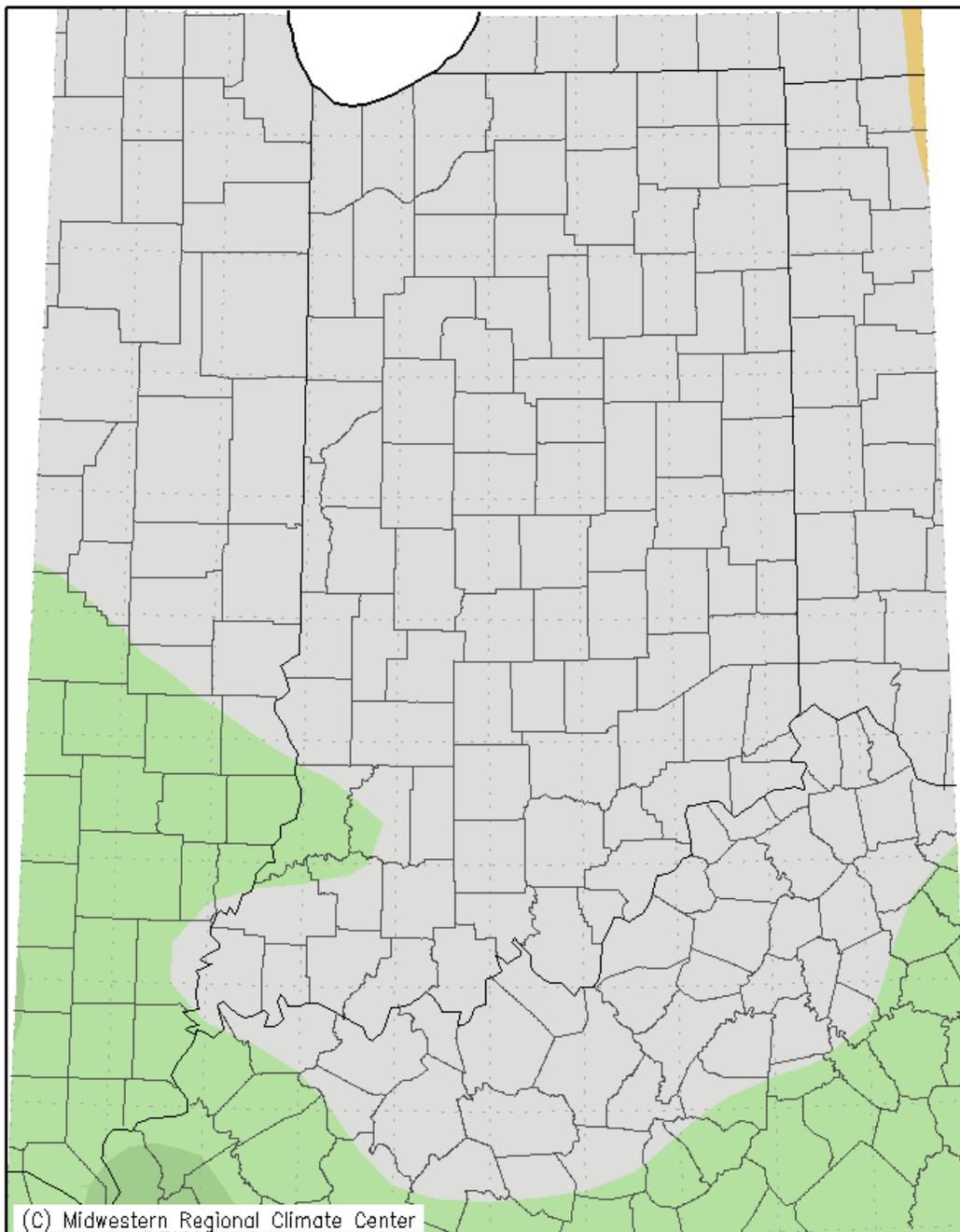
Analysis by Indiana State Climate Office  
Web: <http://www.iclimat.org>

[back to top](#)

## Temperature

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# Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean August 18, 2016 to August 24, 2016



Mean period is 1981–2010.



Indiana State Climate Office   [www.iclimat.org](http://www.iclimat.org)  
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana  
email: [iclimat@purdue.edu](mailto:iclimat@purdue.edu)

[back to top](#)

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# Pest&Crop Newsletter

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

## THANKS FOR READING

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[back to top](#)

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