



## ***Hold the Line? When to Consider Adjusting Corn and Bean CHU's When Planting is Delayed***

***From planting to harvest, each phase of a crop's life cycle is governed by a delicate balance of weather, temperature, and growing conditions. But what happens when that perfect planting window is missed? Delays due to weather, equipment breakdowns, or other unforeseen circumstances are a reality for many farmers, and one of the most crucial decisions in these scenarios is how to adjust your crop plans – particularly when it comes to Crop Heat Units (CHU).***

### **Why Hybrid Selection Matters:**

Delayed planting can lead to shortened growing seasons, affecting both corn and soybean development. These changes can have a significant impact on the crop's potential yield, pest resistance, and overall plant health. For both corn and soybeans, selecting the right hybrid or variety is essential for ensuring that crops have enough time to grow, pollinate, and mature before the first frost. Hybrid selection is something growers put a lot of thought into prior to planting, but when should we consider changing hybrid and variety maturity if we have delays in planting?

### **When to Switch Corn Hybrids for Delayed Planting:**

A general rule of thumb is to reduce hybrid maturity by 100 CHU's for every week that planting is delayed beyond the cutoff for full season hybrids. In areas with a low CHU rating, dropping CHU's by 100-150 CHU's may not be possible without a severe yield penalty and therefore an alternative crop should be examined.

- After May 30th reduce the number of heat units in areas with greater than 3200 CHUS
- After May 20 to 25th reduce the number of heat units in areas of 2800-3200 CHU's
- After May 15th to 20th reduce the number of heat units in areas with less than 2800 CHU's



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## ***Hold the Line? When to Consider Adjusting Corn and Bean CHU's When Planting is Delayed***

### **When to Switch Bean Hybrids for Delayed Planting:**

Soybeans are photoperiod sensitive, meaning they adjust their development based on day length and late planting can cause them to mature later than expected. Additionally, if planting is delayed significantly, there's a higher risk of frost before the soybeans can reach maturity, potentially leading to crop loss.

- When planting is delayed beyond June 15th reduce the estimated CHU's available to the crop by 100-200CHU's.

### **Other Management Practices to Consider with Late Planted Soybeans:**

- **Seeding Rate:** With late planting, increasing seeding rates can help ensure a good stand and quicker row closure.
- **Row Spacing:** Narrower row spacing is generally recommended for late-planted soybeans.

While these dates are guidelines, monitoring key factors like frost risk, weather patterns, and soil conditions, is also crucial to helping you decide whether you should hold the line or consider changing to hybrids with a lower CHU rating. If you are needing help in this decision-making process, consider reaching out to your agronomist as their insight can be an invaluable step in navigating this challenge.



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