

## What You'll Need

- pen & paper** for recording counts
- small tape measure** for measuring ear length/ plant height
- camera/phone** for recording conditions, diseases, insects
- 3'x3' wire or rod square** for measuring soybean plot (or use tape measure and wire survey flags to mark off square plot)
- bucket** for carrying equipment into the field and carrying ears out
- large tape measure or 30'+ of rope** for marking off plots

### PRO TIP:

Pre-measure 35-40' of rope. Put one knot at one end, and one knot at the 30' point.



## HOW TO TAKE CORN ESTIMATES

- Walk into a random area of the field well past the end rows.
- Walk **35** paces down the row middle (away from the end rows). Starting there, lay out a **30-foot plot** with tape measure or rope. You'll be using both rows in that plot.
- Measure and record row width in inches (if not known).
- Count the number of ears, on both rows, that will make grain **inside** your 30-foot plot. Record total number.
- Pull the **5th, 8th, and 11th** ear from one row.
- Count the number of kernel rows on each ear, average for three ears.
- Measure the length of **grain** on each ear, average.

$$\frac{\# \text{ ears found} \times \# \text{ avg kernel rows} \times \# \text{ avg inches of grain}}{\text{row spacing}}$$

## HOW TO TAKE

## SOYBEAN ESTIMATES

- Go to a representative area of the field, away from end rows. Walk **35** steps down the row and lay out a **3-foot-plot**, using either 3X3 "frame" or tape measure and flags.
- Count all the plants in that plot.
- Pull **3** plants at random.
- Count all pods per plant, record. Average for the three plants.

$$\text{avg } \# \text{ pods} \times \text{total } \# \text{ plants}$$

### PRO TIP:

To compare planted and drilled bean fields: Multiply total number of pods by 36 and divide by row width

\*\*\*There is not a reliable method to convert pod counts to bushels per acre, all "on the ground" plot tours compare pod counts across various years and then make an estimate of how yields will move accordingly.

## Additional Tips

- The key to sampling is to be as random as possible. That's why going to a spot in the field, then walking 35 (or some other number) additional steps, is important.
- Taking the extra steps adds randomness to a good or bad spot that you might have selected subconsciously. By all means check there, too.
- If there is a lot of variability in the field, take multiple samples and average.

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