THE EARFULL
September 23, 2025

Harvest Notes from the Road: IL, IA, and NE

Over the past week I traveled across Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois to capture harvest notes, and the differences from site to site were striking. These notes not only help us understand this year's crop performance but also guide our decisions on which products advance in the Renk pipeline and which remain in the lineup for our growers.

Illinois: A Tale of Two Fields

Illinois plots are generally moving toward the harvest window but location made all the difference. At Mendota, heavy disease pressure left stalks very weak, plants on the verge of collapse, and ears essentially "ready to harvest." Just 25 miles away in Tonica, plant health was still strong—stalks stood firm and husks were naturally opening—setting the field up for a timely harvest. The main difference? Tonica received an R1 fungicide application. That single management step not only preserved plant health but also delivered an estimated 30–40 bushel advantage over Mendota.

Iowa: Southern Rust and Stress Pressure

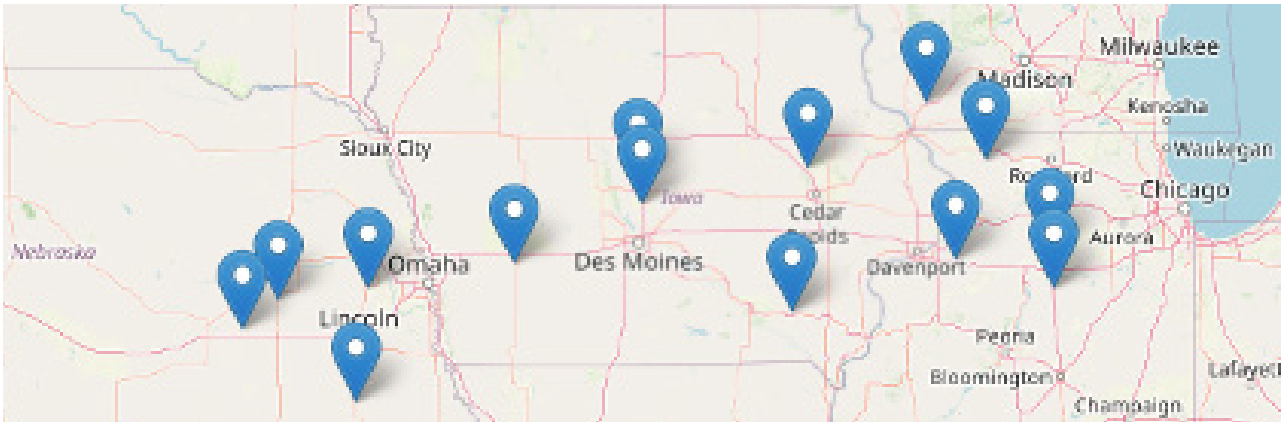
Iowa plots showed the brunt of Southern Rust this season. In several fields, infection levels were high enough to cause kernel abortion and tip dieback, leading to noticeable top-back on the ear. A few locations also had scattered wind damage, with plants suffering root lodging and even some greensnap. These stresses revealed product differences very clearly—not all hybrids held up equally. The lesson here is the value of careful product selection, matching hybrids to both disease pressure and field conditions.

Nebraska: Best of the Week

Nebraska told a much more positive story. Even with visible Southern Rust and Tar Spot, the overall corn crop looked as good as I've seen in many years. Plants were healthy, ears filled, and yield potential was excellent across locations. Nebraska was a reminder that when strong genetics meet favorable conditions, the result is consistency and top-end performance.

What It Means for Renk Growers

Every mile and every plot visit reinforces why we capture these harvest notes: they directly influence the next generation of Renk products. Hybrids that maintain stalk strength under stress, respond to timely VT/R1 protection, and finish strong under disease and weather pressure are the ones we advance in our pipeline. Likewise, these observations help us decide which current products remain in our offering—ensuring growers have confidence that Renk hybrids are battle-tested across real conditions.



RK8501PCE

Relative Maturity: 111 Day **Trait Platform:** PowerCore® Enlist®

Key Characteristics:

- Exceptional yield potential with impressive ear flex.
- Strong early-season emergence and vigor.
- Leading agronomics make this a farmer favorite.

Placement & Populations:

- Performs across soil types with ratings of **8 on coarse soils** and **8 on fine soils** (9 = best).
- Optimum planting density: **30–34,000 plants/acre**.

Yield Environment Ratings:

- High yield: **9**
- Medium yield: **9**
- Low yield: **8**

RK889PCE

Relative Maturity: 113 Day **Trait Platform:** PowerCore® Enlist®

Key Characteristics:

- Incredible yield potential in the full-season class.
- Taller product with excellent ear and tip fill.
- Strong agronomics suited for western sales areas.

Placement & Populations:

- Adaptable across soils with **8 rating on coarse** and **8 on fine soils**.
- Best at **30–34,000 plants/acre**.

Yield Environment Ratings:

- High yield: **9**
- Medium yield: **9**
- Low yield: **8**

RK8585TRE

Relative Maturity: 114 Day **Trait Platform:** Trecepta RIB Complete

Key Characteristics:

- Full-season hybrid delivering exceptional yield.
- Excellent emergence and seedling vigor.
- Robust disease package including protection against ear-feeding insects.

Placement & Populations:

- Broad soil adaptability: **8 on coarse** and **8 on fine soils**.
- Population best at **28–32,000 plants/acre**.

Yield Environment Ratings:

- High yield: **8**
- Medium yield: **8**
- Low yield: **8**