

**Belize Sustainable Agriculture, Ltd.  
Joint Venture Farming Report – July 27, 2013**

**General Overview**

During the week ended July 27, 2013 weather conditions were sunny with no rain fall. Soil moisture is currently at the “moist” stage in Blue Creek. San Carlos is at a “drier” stage. San Carlos does still have moisture in the ground but some rain would be nice. The forecast is for a little rain on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Thiessen Family Farms – 286 acres (143 Irrigated / 143 Dry – 100% Corn)**

Corn was planted May 28, 2013. They did have a problem with worms early on as did all farmers. They are finished with all major applications. They will only need to keep a close eye on corn ear worm and spider mites. The corn is now about 104 inches tall. Harvest is looking for early October. A very high percentage of corn plants are coming out with 2 good ears, which is characteristic of the DeKalb 7088 under ideal growing conditions.



*(Mike Mueller in Blue with the Thiessen Clan)*



Beautiful, wide, dark green leaves: looks very good! Corn has pushed out the tassel, and the silk can be seen in the pictures above.



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**TF Plantations** – 342 acres (259 Irrigated / 83 Dry – 100% Corn)



The above 2 pictures are from Field TF1, TF2T and TF3, also known as “the small pivot field”, which was planted on June 10-12 with seed varieties DeKalb 7088, Syngenta and Pioneer 30F35. TF2T is a trial plot which has strips of all 3 varieties, double the fertilizer, and is 100% irrigated. This is good looking corn which is in its growth spurt. Another application of insecticide for worms has been sprayed via ground rig this last week. It looks like the combination of super fast growing and the agri-chemicals have finally taken care of the worms. No fertilizer was applied this past week; however weather permitting the final tractor application of nitrogen will be applied this coming week. The pivots were started up this week, putting on ½ inch of water.



Additional picture of Field #4 (Picture #1)



Additional picture of Field #4 (Picture #2)

*(Mike Mueller in blue with Henry Fehr:*

*Both excited about the corn!)*



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(Picture #3)



(Picture #4)

The above pictures are from Field TF4, also known as “the Large Pivot field”; it was planted 27-28 June, 2013. Seed varieties planted are Pioneer 30F35 - 75 acres, DeKalb - 7088 - 23 acres and Syngenta - 105 acres. Note the difference in the corn height in pictures 3 and 4 above. The corn in the picture #4 was planted only a few days later then the corn in picture #3. 50 lbs (46-0-0) is being applied via tractor as can be seen in picture #4 together with weed control (cultivating).

**D&H Farms** – 224 acres (0 Irrigated / 223 Dry – 125 acres Corn / 99 acres Soybeans)

### **Soybeans**

The soybeans were planted June 27-28 and they are currently about 8- 10 inches tall. Soil conditions are moist. Grass control was being applied this weekend. Plants are looking good. They seem to have recovered well from the really wet conditions 2 weeks ago. Insects appear to be under control. After the grass control has been applied, an application of foliar fertilizer will be spread by tractor.



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The picture below shows a small area of the field that has a higher population of grass.



**Corn**

In the pictures #1 and 2 below, which is a small field of some 24 acres, the corn is above 5 feet high. It is very healthy looking corn, and even though Pete was not been able to cultivate for weed control due to the soil being waterlogged earlier this month, this does not seem to have affected the corn too much. No rain on this field this week. In picture # 2 some unevenness can be seen in the corn height. This is due to having areas where water stood too long.



(Picture #1)

*(Pete Dyck in the background)*



(Picture #2)



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(Picture #3)

Picture # 3 is the picture we have been waiting for. This is field DHC2, the last of the JV crops to be planted this season. This field was planted on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. In a couple of days we should be seeing corn plants coming up. This field received a glyphosate burn down application hours before planting. A slight yellowing of the leaves can already be seen. More information on seed rate and fertilizer rates to follow. The late planting means that this crop will probably be harvested around December 1<sup>st</sup>, but our view remains very much “better late than never”.

**Neufeld Family Farms – 117 acres (0 Irrigated / 117 – 100% Soybeans)**



Field #JN4- Planted June 28, 2013: 20 acres



Field #JN3- Planted June 27, 2013: 17 acres

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Field # JN2 - Planted June 27, 2013: 20 acres



Field #JN1 – Planted June 27, 2013: 60 acres

*(Mike Mueller in blue / Jacob Neufeld in red)*

Jacob Neufeld finished planting on June 28, 2013, and despite what looked at first like a low stand on his field, the crop is now looking pretty good. These fields have received 0 inches of rain in the last week. An application of herbicide was spread via tractor this week.

### **Conclusion and Summary**

Overall the crops continue to look really good. I am pleased with how all the fields have improved. All the corn fields are looking exceptionally good. Last week Blue Creek was on the wet side with San Carlos being perfect. This week Blue Creek is just right moisture wise and San Carlos is a little on the dry side. The dryer conditions increase the risk of spider mites. Indian Creek, a neighboring community to San Carlos, has already been having a bit of a spider mite problem, although no mites have showed up yet in San Carlos. At this point in the season I still project a better than average crop.

No noteworthy reports of transactions in corn or soybeans, although local Orange Walk buyers are now reported to be paying \$0.26-\$0.27/lb for corn (slightly weaker). Soybean demand remains steady around \$0.60/lb. Corn is now a penny weaker than the “middle case” of our original JV program scenario. I understand another feed mill in Cayo has started up a soybean processing mill. This will probably mean more demand for the soybeans. Milo prices are \$0.23 – 0.24/lb.

Generally speaking, the crops in the Cayo and Orange Walk Districts (where most of Belize’s corn and soybeans are grown) continue to look good, which would indicate a large harvest. Silos remain quite empty at the moment, and earlier crops are likely to achieve a better price; storage will need to be organized for part of our crop so that it is not sold at a seasonally weak point. Our JV partners are having discussions with local co-ops and we do not expect storage to be a problem. There are reports that Guatemalan trucks have been picking up any and all grain that is available within Orange Walk, as was the case recently with milo. If this trend is repeated in corn, we should see some price improvement, although weakness in the US corn price will limit upside potential.

Thanks!

Abe Dyck

## Belize Sustainable Agriculture, Ltd. Joint Venture Farming Report - July 27, 2013

Grower	Location	Field #	Acres	Irr?	Soil Type	Crop	Seed Variety	Plant Date	Stand - Date	Fertilizer Program	Comments
Thiessen	SC	1	143.0 142.8 <u>285.8</u>	Y	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	DeKalb 7088 (25,000 seeds/acre)	May 28	6.5' - 7/13 7.5' - 7/19 8.5' - 7/27	170lbs/acre 18-46-0 183lbs/acre 46-0-0	Fertilizing complete. Total pure N this season = 115lbs/acre, versus historic 40-50lbs/acre. Note lack of "K" vs TF fields. Silking underway late July  <b>Very Healthy</b>
TF Plantations	SC	TF1	57.99 14.00 <u>71.99</u>	Y N	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	DeKalb 7088 (31,000 seeds/acre)	June 10	18" - 7/13 36-42"-7/19 48" - 7/27	220lbs/acre 10-26-26 110lbs/acre 0-0-60 65lbs/acre 40-0-0-6 73lbs/acre 46-0-0	Fertilizer program calls for 330lbs/acre base Fertilizer and 150 lbs/acre pure N. This is over 150% higher than historic levels and consistent with requirements for 125-150Bu/acre yields  <b>Looking really promising</b>
TF Plantations	SC	TF2T Test Plot	14.72	Y	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	DeKalb 7088 Syngenta Pioneer 30F35 (38,000 seeds/acre)	June 11	18" - 7/13 36-42"-7/19 47" - 7/27	330 lbs/ acre 10-26-26 330 lbs/ acre 0-0-60 140lbs/acre 40-0-0-6 110lbs/acre 46-0-0	Test Plot getting major fertilizer boost (up to 100% extra) vs. TF1 and TF3 (which are already way above historic levels) Harvest will be monitored for different result vs. TF1 & TF3  <b>Looking really promising</b>
TF Plantations	SC	TF3	46.40 5.59 <u>51.99</u>	Y N	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	Pioneer 30F35 (31,000 seeds/acre)	June 12	18" - 7/13 36-42"-7/19 46" - 7/27	220lbs/acre 10-26-26 110lbs/acre 0-0-60 65lbs/acre 40-0-0-6 73lbs/acre 46-0-0	Same strategy as TF1       <b>Looking really promising</b>
TF Plantations	SC	TF4	140.02 63.56 <u>203.58</u>	Y N	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	Pioneer 30f35 75 acres DeKalb 7088 23 ac. Syngenta 105 ac. (27,000 seeds/ac).	June 27-28	7-8" - 7/13 12-14"-7/19 30-36"-7/27	220lbs/ac 18-46-0 110lbs/ac 0-0-60 73lbs/acre 46-0-0	Same strategy as TF1, some difference in fertilizers due to local availability issues.      <b>Looking really promising</b>

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<b>D &amp; H</b>	BC	DHS1	99.37	N	Heavy Black	Soy	Huasteca 400 (? Seeds/acre)	June 27-29	3-4" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19 8-10" – 7/27	40lbs/ac 15-15-15	Summer soybean trial in heavy black Blue Creek soil. Limited Fertilizer program due to modest soybean needs and local soil conditions. Compare with JN. Crop Replanted June 27-28 after first seed had very low germination rates.  <b>Now looking promising</b>
<b>D &amp; H</b>	BC	DHC1	24.43	N	Heavy Black	Corn	DeKalb 7088 (? Seeds/acre)	June ??	3.5' – 7/13 5' – 7/19 6.5' – 7/27	100lbs/acre 14-36-12	Summer corn trial in heavy black non-irrigated Blue Creek soil. Fertilizer program calls for 150lbs/acre base Fertilizer and 75 lbs/acre pure N. (low range but 50% above historic levels)  <b>Mostly Very Healthy</b>
<b>D &amp; H</b>	BC	DHC2	100.56	N	Heavy Black	Corn	DeKalb 7088 (? Seeds/acre)	July 26-27	Not yet germinated	<b>TBA</b>	Same as DHC1  <b>Planted; awaiting germination</b>
<b>Neufeld</b>	SC	JN1	60.73	N	Sandy loam (Red)	Soy	CARDI 1088 (? Seeds/acre)	June 27	4-6" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19 8-10" – 7/27	120lbs/acre 15-15-15	Summer soybean trial in sandy red soil. Fertilizer program calls for moderate increase in base and foliar applications  <b>Looking good given below average germination rate</b>
<b>Neufeld</b>	SC	JN2	20.17	N	Sandy loam (Red)	Soy	CARDI 1088 (? Seeds/acre)	June 27	4-6" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19 8-10" – 7/27	120lbs/acre 15-15-15	Same as JN1  <b>Looking good given below average germination rate</b>
<b>Neufeld</b>	SC	JN3	16.56	N	Sandy loam (Red)	Soy	Huasteca 400 (? Seeds/acre)	June 27	4-6" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19 8-10" – 7/27	120lbs/acre 15-15-15	Same as JN1  <b>Looking good given below average germination rate</b>
<b>Neufeld</b>	SC	JN4	19.82	N	Sandy loam (Red)	Soy	CARDI 1088 (? Seeds/acre)	June 28	4-6" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19 8-10" – 7/27	120lbs/acre 15-15-15	Same as JN1  <b>Looking good given below average germination rate</b>