

**Belize Sustainable Agriculture, Ltd.**  
**Joint Venture Farming Report - July 19, 2013**

**General Overview**

During the week ended July 19, 2013 weather conditions in Orange Walk were sunny with isolated rain showers. Little if any rain fell on the JV fields this week. Soil moisture is currently at the “moist” stage in Blue Creek and San Carlos. Blue Creek is a little wetter because of its black soil retaining moisture longer.

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

Corn was planted May 28, 2013; variety is DeKalb 7088. They did have a problem with worms early on as did all farmers. The Thiessens are finished with all the weed control and have had to do several insecticide applications. Three applications of nitrogen, one at 100 lbs/acre (46-0-0-) and one at 38.6 lbs/acre (46-0-0) have been spread via ground and one at 45 lbs/acre of 46-0-0 was applied via air. This makes for a combined nitrogen application of 183 lbs/acre of 46-0-0 (equivalent to 84 lbs of pure nitrogen) per acre on the Thiessen acreage, along with 31 lbs of pure nitrogen equivalent in the base fertilizer. Total nitrogen applied to the Thiessen fields is therefore 115 lbs/acre, compared with their historic application level of 46 lbs/acre.



The corn is now about 7 ½ feet tall and has beautiful, wide, dark green leaves; it looks very good! This is about as tall as the corn will get, except for the tassel. The tassel is starting to push out and, now that it is coming out, no more dry fertilizer will be applied. Ears can be seen starting to form! The corn currently looks clean from all pests but Spider Mites are something that we will be concerned about going forward; a number of other local farmers have already had to spray for mites. Field inspections are made at this point three times weekly or even daily.

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Ears Forming – July 19

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See Below: Progression of growth since July 13



July 13, 2013



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**TF Plantations** – 342 acres (260 Irrigated / 82 Dry – 100% Corn)

We are continuing to improve our understanding of our JV Partners' fields. Originally TF Plantations was simply divided into Field 1 (aka "Small Pivot") and Field 2 (aka "Large Pivot"). However, Brian Fehr used Field 1 for multiple trials, which were duly mapped and are being tracked. Therefore we are now reflecting this in our data table, which shows TF1, TF2T, and TF3. The old Field 2 is now referred to as TF4 (aka "Large Pivot"). Each field has now been surveyed separately with AgriPlot and the data will be incorporated into future weekly reports.



TF1 - (Variety: DeKalb 7088)



TF2T – (Varieties: DeKalb 7088 + Syngenta)

The pictures immediately above and below are from Fields TF1, TF2T and TF3, which were planted on June 10-12 with 3 seed varieties: DeKalb 7088, Syngenta, and Pioneer 30F35. This is good looking corn, which stands 36"-42" tall.



TF3 – (Varieties: TBA)

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TF4 – July 19, 2013: Weed Control



TF4 – July 19, 2013: Weed Control



TF4 – July 19 – 2013



TF4 – July 13, 2013

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 - 20 acres and Syngenta - 105 acres. The plants are currently 12-14 inches tall. As can be seen in the first two pictures above, weed control is being done this week via cultivating. One and a half to two weeks later an herbicide will be applied for any weed seed that germinated after this cultivating. Nitrogen applications will also be taking place over the next several weeks. For comparison purposes a picture of the same field from 2 weeks ago has also been inserted above. This provides a clear example of how much the corn has grown in the past week, and in the three weeks since planting.

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**D&H Farms** – 226 acres (0 Irrigated / 226 Dry – 126 acres Corn / 100 acres Soybeans)

**Soybeans**

The soybeans were re-planted June 27-28 and they are currently about 8 inches tall; the plants are looking much healthier this week. As can be seen on the pictures, Blue Creek soil conditions are currently much dryer than they were a week ago; Blue Creek got about almost no rain this last week. An application of herbicide for grass control will be spread in the coming week. Original plans had called for a pass with the cultivator for grass control and aeration, but as the plants are a little on the small side, herbicide will be used for now and then in another 2 weeks a pass with the cultivator will be scheduled. A little bit of fungus was spotted today, so an aerial application of fungicide mixed with some foliar fertilizer will be applied tomorrow morning (7/23). The pictures below show how much the soil has dried in 1 week.



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**Corn**

In the pictures below, which is a small field of some 26 odd acres, the corn is 5ft+ tall and is very healthy looking. Unfortunately, Pete has not yet been able to cultivate for weed control due to the soil still being too wet until very recently. Now the corn is now too tall for cultivation. This field received no rain this past week, but with the next rain the final application of nitrogen will be spread aurally. The past wet weather has prevented the planting of the last 100 acres of corn, however significant drying has taken place this week. With a few more days of dry weather the remaining 100 acres should be ready for planting.



**Neufeld Family Farms – 100 acres (0 Irrigated / 100 – 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

Jacob Neufeld finished planting on June 28, 2013, and despite what looked at first like a low stand on his fields, they are now looking pretty good. The plants are now 7-8 inches tall. These fields have received little if any rain in the last week. An application of herbicide was spread by tractor this week.

### **Conclusion and Summary**

Overall the crops look really good, and the corn fields are looking especially promising. Last week I said Blue Creek could do with a little less rain this week; well, we did not get any rain this week and the soybeans are looking much better. It appears that we are still on our way to above average yields at this point.

No noteworthy reports of major transactions in corn or soybeans. Local Orange Walk buyers are still paying in the \$0.27-\$0.29/lb for corn and around \$0.60 for soybeans, which remains the “middle case” of our original JV program scenario. However, Milo recently rose from \$0.19/lb to \$0.23/lb as Guatemalan buyers have been coming into Belize in the last few weeks competing for all the milo that is available which led to the sharply higher Milo prices. We believe that similar demand from Guatemala is likely to drive up the price of corn later this autumn.

Generally speaking, the crops in the Cayo and Orange Walk Districts (where most of Belize’s corn and soybeans are grown) look good, which would indicate a large harvest. While silos are fairly empty at the moment, earlier crops are likely to achieve a better price, and storage will need to be organized for part of our crop so that it is not sold at a seasonally weak point. The local corn Co-Operative is looking into setting up an additional 90,000 bushels of storage for this coming harvest.

Thanks!

Abe Dyck

# Belize Sustainable Agriculture, Ltd. Joint Venture Farming Report - July 8, 2013

Grower	Location	Field #	Acres	Irr?	Soil Type	Crop	Seed Variety	Plant Date	Stand - Date	Fertilizer Program	Comments
Thiessen	SC	T1	143.00 142.89 <u>285.89</u>	Y N	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	DeKalb 7088	May 28	6.5' – 7/13 7.5' – 7/19	170lbs/acre 18-46-0 183lbs/acre 46-0-0	Very Healthy 7/13 Very Healthy & Tassling 7/19 Fertilizer program complete 7/19
TF Plantations	SC	TF1	57.59 14.40 <u>71.99</u>	Y N	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	DeKalb 7088 Syngenta Pioneer 30F35	June 10-12	18" – 7/13 36-42"–7/19	220 lbs/acre 10-26-26 110lbs/acre 0-0-60 50 lbs/acre 46-0-0	Promising Start 7-13 Very healthy 7/19 Irrigated/Dry breakdown TBA
TF Plantations	SC	TF2T	11.78 2.94 <u>14.72</u>	Y N	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	DeKalb 7088 Syngenta ? Pioneer 30F35	June 10-12	18" – 7/13 36-42"–7/19	220 lbs/acre 10-26-26 110lbs/acre 0-0-60 50 lbs/acre 46-0-0	Promising Start 7/13 Very healthy 7/19 Irrigated/Dry breakdown TBA
TF Plantations	SC	TF3	41.50 10.38 <u>51.88</u>	Y N	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	DeKalb 7088 Syngenta ? Pioneer 30F35	June 10-12	18" – 7/13 36-42"–7/19	220 lbs/acre 10-26-26 110lbs/acre 0-0-60 50 lbs/acre 46-0-0	Promising Start 7/13 Very healthy 7/19 Irrigated/Dry breakdown TBA
TF Plantations	SC	TF4	140.00 63.58 <u>203.58</u>	Y n	Sandy loam (Red)	Corn	Pioneer 30f35 75 acres DeKalb ? 20 acres Syngenta ? 105 ac.	June 27-28	7-8" – 7/13 12-14"–7/19	110lbs/ac 18-46-0 110lbs/ac 0-0-60 50 lbs/acre (?) 46-0-0	Promising Start 7/13 Promising Start 7/19
D & H	BC	DHS1	99.37	N	Heavy Black	Soy	Huasteca 400	June 27-29	3-4" – 7/13 8" – 7/19	40lbs/ac 15-15-15	First planting 6/11-12 had very low germination. Replanted 6/27-28 Promising Start 7/13 Promising Start 7/19
D & H	BC	DHC1	26.12 <i>partial</i>	N	Heavy Black	Corn	DeKalb 7088	June 29	3.5' – 7/13 5' – 7/19	100lbs/acre 14-36-12	Mostly Very Healthy Detailed Land Plots TBA
D & H	BC	DHC2	100.0 <i>partial</i>	N	Heavy Black	Corn	DeKalb 7088	TBA		<b>TBA</b>	Waiting for dry spell Detailed Land Plots TBA

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Neufeld	SC	JN1	60.73	N	Sandy loam (Red)	Soy	CARDI 1088	June 27	4-6" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19	120lbs/acre 15-15-15	Promising Start 7/13 Promising Start 7/19
Neufeld	SC	JN2	20.17	N	Sandy loam (Red)	Soy	CARDI 1088	June 27	4-6" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19	120lbs/acre 15-15-15	Promising Start 7/13 Promising Start 7/19
Neufeld	SC	JN3	16.56	N	Sandy loam (Red)	Soy	Huasteca 400	June 27	4-6" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19	120lbs/acre 15-15-15	Promising Start 7/13 Promising Start 7/19
Neufeld	SC	JN4	19.82	N	Sandy loam (Red)	Soy	CARDI 1088	June 28	4-6" – 7/13 7-8" – 7/19	120lbs/acre 15-15-15	Promising Start 7/13 Promising Start 7/19

Note – Certain field sizes, seed varieties and certain other details are subject to final confirmation