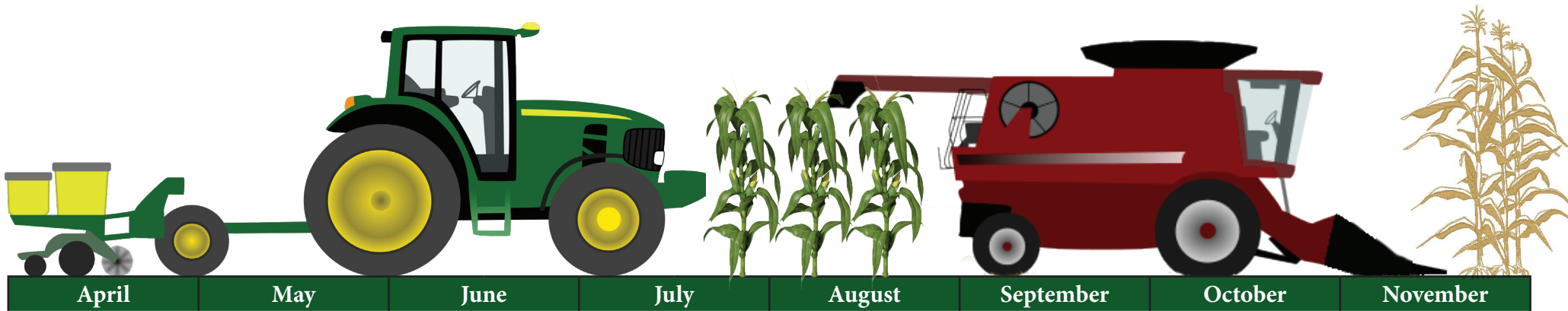


# From Seed to Feed - The Planting and Harvesting of Corn

Spring is a time of new growth, especially on the farm! From planting to growing to harvesting, corn and corn farmers go through many different steps and stages to grow a safe, healthy, affordable crop that can be used for a variety of different products!



## Planting

Planting time can vary depending on the climate and the weather, but generally will begin in early to Mid-April and will continue through mid to late May.

## Pest Control and Fertilizing

Even before planting, farmers will check for potential weed and insect problems. In many cases, seeds are coated with an insecticide to prevent insects from eating the seed before it has a chance to sprout. Herbicides may also be applied to help with weed control during emergence to reduce the corn's competition for nutrients. Nitrogen is often applied at plant, and may be sidedressed once the corn emerges.

## Plant Emergence

Once planted, the seed will germinate and then emerge from the ground in approximately 7 days (weather allowing).

## Plant Growth

After the plant emerges it goes through a period of growth, adding leaves and growing taller.

## Pest Control

Post planting herbicide can be applied once the corn has emerged before it gets to tall to help control weeds if needed.

## Moisture

Corn needs adequate moisture during this time to help with growth and pollentation.

## Tasselling and Silking

During the reproductive stage, the tassel and then silk will form, and pollentation occurs. Once this occurs, the kernels will develop and the grain will fill out.

## Plant Maturity

Once the grain has filled, the plant and ear will reach maturity. The kernels will go from a soft dough phase to dent where all kernels have a dent in them. They will then reach the proper moisture level to be harvested.

## Harvesting

Harvest time will vary based on the variety of the corn and its intended use. Some corn used for silage may be harvested towards the end of August, while corn planted for animal feed needs to "dry down" before being harvested. This corn can be harvested and placed in a dryer, or it can be left in the field until it reaches approximately 15% moisture.

## Fall Fertilizer Application

Once the corn is harvested, a fall application of lime may be applied to the fields.

FARM CREDIT

Knowledge Center

www.farmcreditknowledgecenter.com