Nitrogen Sufficiency Test for Sweet Corn?

- Nitrate (NO$_3$-N) concentration in the lower field corn stalks is used to determine soil N sufficiency for corn grain.
- For maximum yield, stalk NO$_3$-N levels in the range of 0.5 to 2.0 g/kg (ppm) dry matter is needed at or after physiological maturity of corn.
- However, sweet corn is harvested at the early milk stage, so stalk NO$_3$-N levels would be expected to differ.
- Earlier studies indicated the critical concentration for sweet corn was 3.4 to 4.1 g/kg based on marketable ear number in 3 out of 4 years.
- However, stalk NO$_3$-N varied among hybrids examined.