

CROP DEVELOPMENT 2004

Illinois farmers had ideal planting conditions through April and May which enabled the corn and soybean crops to be planted at a near record pace. Soil moisture remained mostly adequate during the planting season. Planting slowed briefly in late May and early June as soil moisture increased to surplus in some portions of the state. Cool temperatures and timely rains aided crop development during the rest of the growing season. Record high yields for corn, soybeans, and sorghum were the result of an ideal growing season in 2004.

The crop production index for 2004 was up 27 points from the previous year to 156 percent of the 1977 base. Record high corn and soybean yields pushed the index to its highest level ever. Corn production surpassed two billion bushels in 2004, 15 percent more than the previous year. The final yield was 180 bushels per acre, 16 bushels above the previous year, which had been the previous record high yield. The yield for the 2004 soybean crop was 50.5 bushels per acre, 13.5 bushels above the 2003 yield. Production totaled 500 million bushels, 32 percent above the previous year.

The 2004 yield for sorghum for grain was 109 bushels, 27 bushels above the yield in 2003. Sorghum production, at 8.94 million bushels, was up 4 percent from the previous year. The yield for the 2004 winter wheat crop was 59 bushels per acre, 6 bushels below the previous year. Total production was 53.1 million bushels, a one percent increase from the 2003 production of 52.7 million bushels. The oats estimate for 2004 placed the production at 2.45 million bushels, 45 percent below the previous year. The oats yield, at 70 bushels per acre, was 19 bushels below the 2003 yield. Production of all hay in 2004 was 2.56 million tons, 6 percent below 2003. Alfalfa hay production was down 1 percent to 1.72 million tons. All other hay production decreased 14 percent to 840 thousand tons. Alfalfa yields increased from 4.1 to 4.3 tons per acre whereas all other hay yields declined from 2.8 to 2.4 tons per acre.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX, 1974-2004

Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/
1974	68	1984	97	1994	136
1975	100	1985	120	1995	102
1976	95	1986	112	1996	118
1977	100	1987	99	1997	121
1978	97	1988	66	1998	127
1979	114	1989	110	1999	124
1980	92	1990	109	2000	133
1981	113	1991	99	2001	134
1982	115	1992	128	2002	124
1983	66	1993	112	2003	129
				2004	156

1/ 1977=100.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX 1974-2004 (1977=100)



