

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's five major field crops totaled 12.3 million acres during 2005, down 1 percent from the 2004 planted acreage. Corn acreage for harvest was 4 percent above a year ago, while soybean acreage for harvest decreased 3 percent. Winter wheat harvested acreage was down 23 percent from a year ago and all hay harvested acreage fell 2 percent below the 2004 level. Oat acreage for harvest decreased 25 percent from the 2004 level. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were processing tomatoes down 5 percent, snap beans for processing down 4 percent, and popcorn down 11 percent. In addition, tomatoes for fresh market harvested acreage decreased 12 percent, cantaloupes rose 7 percent, fresh market sweet corn decreased 4 percent, and watermelons increased 1 percent.

YIELDS: Planting of corn and soybean fields got off to an early start during the 2005 season with near ideal planting conditions during much of April and May. A considerable amount of tillage and fertilizer application was done the previous fall which helped save time during the spring. By May 1st, 51 percent of the intended corn acreage was planted and 11 percent of the soybean acreage was planted. Corn planting was on a pace well ahead of the 5-year average throughout the spring. As of May 22nd, 95 percent of the corn acreage was planted and 73 percent of the soybean acreage was planted. Above average temperatures and a shortage of precipitation during June and the first two weeks in July caused great concern over deteriorating crop conditions. Some much needed precipitation came to the state in mid July just in time to help with pollination and grain fill in corn and setting of pods in soybeans. Crops dried down

and rapidly advanced toward maturity with harvest really getting underway in mid-September. By mid-November, corn harvest was 96 percent complete and 99 percent of the soybean acreage was harvested. Many farmers had better than expected yields for both corn and soybeans. In fact, the state average corn yield of 154 bushels per acre was the third highest on record. The average yield for soybeans was 49 bushels per acre, down 2.5 bushels from the previous year. Winter wheat had a record yield of 72 bushels per acre, up 10 bushels from last year. Oat yield averaged 69 bushels per acre, 6 bushels lower than the 75 bushels per acre set in 2004 and 11 bushels per acre below the record high yield of 80 bushels per acre established in 2001. All hay yield, at 3.18, was 0.31 tons below the 3.49 tons per acre in 2004. The average yield for popcorn was 4,350 pounds per acre, 200 pounds per acre less than the 2004 average.

PRODUCTION: Corn produced during 2005 was 888.6 million bushels, 4 percent below the 2004 level of 929.0 million bushels. Soybean production was 263.6 million bushels, 7 percent below the 284.3 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production, at 24.5 million bushels, was 10 percent less than the 27.3 million bushels harvested in 2004. Popcorn production totaled 326.3 million pounds, 15 percent below the 2004 level. Oat production of 621 thousand bushels was 31 percent below the 900 thousand bushels produced in 2004. All hay production, at 2.1 million tons, fell 10 percent. Peppermint production decreased 17 percent, while spearmint production rose 13 percent. Apple production decreased 17 percent to 50.0 million pounds. Blueberry production totaled 3.5 million pounds, a 13 percent increase from the previous year.

"A Delicious Treat"

Photographer ~~ Julie Saucerman
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