

## CROP HIGHLIGHTS

**ACREAGE:** Indiana's five major field crops totaled 12.3 million acres during 2006, virtually the same as the 2005 planted acreage. Corn acreage for harvest was 7 percent below a year ago, while soybean acreage for harvest increased 6 percent. Winter wheat harvested acreage was up 35 percent from a year ago and all hay harvested acreage was the same as the 2005 level. Oat acreage for harvest increased 56 percent from the 2005 level. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were processing tomatoes down 1 percent, snap beans for processing down 4 percent, and popcorn down 36 percent. In addition, cantaloupe acreage fell 7 percent and watermelon acreage increased 1 percent.

**YIELDS:** The 2006 growing season got off to a slow start due to cool, wet weather in April and May. Many corn and soybean fields or portions of fields had to be replanted due to heavy rains and cool temperatures causing germination and emergence problems. As of May 7th, 52 percent of the corn acreage and 15 percent of the soybean acreage had been planted. Planting of both crops was running behind the 5-year average pace. By May 28th, 89 percent of the corn acreage was planted and 58 percent of the soybean acreage was planted. Southern portions of the state were the furthest behind in planting because of frequent rain showers throughout the spring. Most areas of the state experienced good growing conditions during June, July and August with adequate precipitation and normal temperatures. Cool temperatures and heavy rains in September slowed the

maturing of both corn and soybeans. Harvest began later than normal and lagged behind the 5-year average throughout the fall. The average yield for corn was 157 bushels per acre, 3 bushels above the 2005 yield and the third highest on record. The average yield for soybeans was 50 bushels per acre, 1 bushel above the 2005 yield of 49 bushels per acre. The average yield for winter wheat at 69 bushels per acre was 3 bushels below the previous year's record yield of 72 bushels per acre. The average oat yield at 80 bushels per acre tied the record yield set in 2001. All hay yield at 3.39 tons per acre was .21 tons higher than the 2005 yield. Popcorn averaged 4,100 pounds per acre, 100 pounds per acre less than the 4,200 pounds per acre produced a year earlier.

**PRODUCTION:** Corn produced during 2006 was 844.7 million bushels, 5 percent below the 2005 level of 888.6 million bushels. Soybean production was 284.0 million bushels, 8 percent above the 263.6 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production increased 30 percent from a year earlier, to 31.7 million bushels. Popcorn production totaled 196.8 million pounds, 38 percent below the 2005 level. Oat production of 1.1 million bushels was 80 percent above the 621 thousand bushels produced in 2005. All hay production, at 2.2 million tons, rose 6 percent. Peppermint production increased 24 percent, while spearmint production rose 25 percent. Apple production increased 10 percent to 55.0 million pounds. Blueberry production totaled 3.4 million pounds, a 3 percent decrease from the previous year.

"Wheat Field"

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