

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's five major field crops totaled nearly 12.0 million acres for harvest during 2010, down slightly from 2009. Corn acreage for harvest was up five percent from a year ago, while soybean acreage for harvest was down two percent. Winter wheat acreage harvested was down 49 percent from a year ago, but all hay harvested acreage was up 8 percent from the 2009 level. Oat acreage for harvest increased 14 percent from 2009. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were tomatoes for fresh market, up 13 percent while tomatoes for processing decreased 2 percent. Sweet corn acreage for harvest increased 7 percent, while watermelon harvested acreage decreased 4 percent from 2009. In addition, snap beans for processing increased 25 percent, while cucumbers for processing decreased 20 percent from 2009. Furthermore, cantaloupes for fresh market increased 5 percent.

YIELDS: The 2010 growing season got off to a quick start during April and early May. Corn planting moved at a record pace and by May 2nd, 71 percent of the crop had already been planted. However, rain showers during the last 3 weeks of May slowed planting to a more average pace. Wet weather continued throughout June slowing soybean planting and making harvest of hay crops difficult. Winter wheat harvest moved at a good pace with minor rain delays. Wheat yields were average with some disease issues and low test weights reported. July brought warmer temperatures and adequate moisture to sustain the crops in most areas. However, by the second week of August, hot and dry conditions had begun to deplete topsoil moisture placing stress on the major field crops. Extremely dry conditions continued throughout the fall forcing the corn and soybean crops to mature very rapidly and pasture conditions to plummet. By October 10th, harvest of both corn and soybeans was moving at record setting paces with 80 percent of the corn harvested and 79 percent of the soybean crop harvested. The majority of

counties in Indiana were under burn bans due to the drought and several combine fires were reported. Many farmers hesitated to plant winter wheat as there was insufficient soil moisture for germination to occur in many areas. Ninety-eight percent of both the corn and soybean crops had been harvested by the end of October.

The average yield for corn in 2010 was 157 bushels per acre, 14 bushels below the 2009 yield. Soybeans yielded 48.5 bushels per acre, just .5 bushel below 2009. The average yield for winter wheat, at 60 bushels per acre, was 7 bushels below the previous year's yield of 67 bushels per acre. The average oat yield of 66 bushels per acre was down 3 bushels from the previous year's yield of 69 bushels per acre. All hay yield at 2.83 tons per acre was up from the 2009 yield of 2.77 tons per acre. Popcorn averaged 4,700 pounds per acre, up 400 pounds from the 4,300 pounds per acre produced a year earlier.

PRODUCTION: Corn produced during 2010 totaled 898.0 million bushels, 4 percent below the 2009 level of 933.7 million bushels. Soybean production was 258.5 million bushels, 3 percent below the 266.6 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production decreased 54 percent from a year earlier, to 13.8 million bushels. Popcorn production totaled 296.1 million pounds, 15 percent above the 2009 level. Oat production of 528 thousand bushels was 9 percent above the 483 thousand bushels produced in 2009. All hay production, at 1.89 million tons, increased 10 percent. Peppermint production increased 39 percent while spearmint production increased 63 percent from 2009. Apple production decreased 13 percent to 26.0 million pounds. Blueberry production totaled 3.6 million pounds, a 3 percent decrease from the previous year.



"Summertime in Indiana"
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