

## CROP HIGHLIGHTS

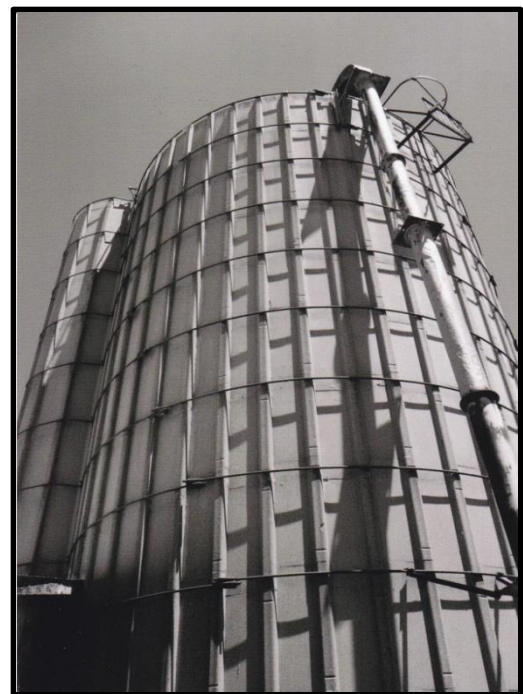
**ACREAGE:** Indiana's five major field crops totaled slightly over 12.1 million acres for harvest during 2013, up slightly from 2012. Corn acreage for harvest was down by 3 percent from a year ago, while soybean acreage for harvest was up 1 percent. Winter wheat harvested acreage was up 53 percent from a year ago, and all hay harvested acreage was up 14 percent from the 2012 level. Oat acreage for harvest doubled from 2012. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were tomatoes for fresh market, up 29 percent while tomatoes for processing acreage was down 3 percent. Sweet corn acreage for harvest increased 10 percent, and watermelon harvested acreage increased 10 percent from 2012. In addition, cucumbers for processing increased 90 percent from 2012, and cantaloupes for fresh market decreased 5 percent.

**YIELDS:** Row crop planting started out sluggish in 2013 thanks to an unusually wet April and late-month snows that shut down the majority of field activity. With a state average of 6.45 inches of precipitation, the month proved to be the 7<sup>th</sup> wettest April on record in Indiana. By May 5, only 8% of corn had been planted vs. a five-year average of 41%, and soybeans had not even begun to be put in the ground. May panned out to be a warm and dry month, much to the delight of farmers. Spotty rainfalls in the first half of the month gave way to several weeks of good clear weather in late May so that by May 26, planting progress in corn and soybeans had surged ahead of the five year average to end at 86% and 60%, respectively. June thankfully did not put on a repeat performance of last year's temperature extremes and widespread drought: temperatures averaged only 71.1° F through the month, and rains were plentiful, with a surplus of 2.08 inches above normal for the month. Planting for both corn and soybeans had concluded by month's end, and wheat heading rapidly progressed during the month to conclude to on June 23. Generous rains allowed condition ratings for corn and soybeans to swell to 79 and 74 percent good to excellent by June 30, respectively. July was overall cool and dry, though a heat wave in the third week allowed abnormally dry conditions to resurface in a handful of east central Indiana counties. Corn and soybeans progressed on schedule through most of the month, with corn 82% silked and soybeans 72% blooming by July 28. The weather was perfect for winter wheat harvest, with percent harvested shooting from 32 percent on July 7 to 100 percent by July 28. August proved to be warm and exceedingly dry – at a state average deficit on 1.94 inches below normal, it ranks as the 3<sup>rd</sup> driest August on record. The dry spell came just as row crops had begun to fill, causing some worry among farmers with what had been to that point an exemplary crop. Crop condition ratings fell through the month and into September as a consequence, though still remained over 50% good to excellent for both corn and soybeans even at their lowest points. Thankfully, mid-September brought an end to the dryness, with significant storms in the third week bringing relief to much of the state's crops. The corn and soybean harvest kicked off about the same time, progressing slowly through a damp October and hurrying to an on-schedule

finish by November 17, just in time for the first major snows of the season on November 12 and November 26.

The average yield for corn in 2013 was 177 bushels per acre, 78 bushels above the 2012 yield. Soybeans yielded 51.0 bushels per acre, 7.0 bushels above 2012. The average yield for winter wheat, at 73 bushels per acre, was 6 bushels above the previous year's yield of 67 bushels per acre. The average oat yield of 71 bushels per acre was up 1 bushel from the previous year's yield of 70 bushels per acre. All hay yield of 2.80 tons per acre was up .44 ton from the 2012 yield of 2.36 tons per acre. Popcorn averaged 4,600 pounds per acre, up 1,600 pounds from the previous year's yield.

**PRODUCTION:** Corn produced during 2013 totaled 1.04 billion bushels, 72 percent above the 2012 level of 597.0 million bushels. Soybean production was 267.3 million bushels, 19 percent above the 225.3 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production increased 66 percent from a year earlier, to 31.8 million bushels. Popcorn production totaled 372.6 million pounds, 46 percent above the 2012 level. Oat production of 710 thousand bushels was 103 percent above the 350 thousand bushels produced in 2012. All hay production, at 1.79 million tons, was up 35 percent from the previous year. Peppermint production of 425 thousand pounds decreased 17 percent while spearmint production of 263 thousand pounds increased 17 percent from 2012. Blueberry production totaled 3.2 million pounds, 113 percent increase from the previous year.



"Silo"

Photographer ~~ Elizabeth Pfeiffer  
Age 15, Haubstadt, IN