

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's principal field crops totaled 11.8 million acres for harvest during 2021, 30 thousand acres less than 2020. Soybean harvested acreage at 5.64 million was down 40 thousand from the previous year. Corn harvested for grain acreage was 5.27 million up 20 thousand acres from previous year.

YIELDS: A mild and mostly dry start to the 2021 planting season offered optimal weather conditions that spurred planting progress and winter wheat crop development. The average temperature for the month was 50.0 degrees Fahrenheit. Corn planting, soybean planting, and winter wheat jointing all closed out April well ahead of their respective five-year averages.

Frequent rain showers in early May initially hindered corn and soybean planting progress but helped replenish soil moisture levels after the relatively dry month of April. The average temperature for May was 58.9 degrees. Corn and soybean emergence consistently remained ahead of their respective five-year averages. Much to the relief of growers across the State, the cold spell that closed out April did little to hinder winter wheat crop condition as 72 percent of winter wheat was rated in good to excellent condition by the end of May.

By mid-June, corn and soybean planting neared completion. The average temperature for the month was 70.5 degrees. Consistent rainfall helped maintain soil moisture levels throughout the month. As June ended, corn and soybean emergence had nearly finished. Second cuttings of alfalfa and other hay were in full swing. While winter wheat harvest fell behind its five-year average, the crop was reportedly doing well with 76 percent rated in good to excellent condition by the end of June. Both corn and soybeans finished out the month with 73 percent of corn and 71 percent of soybeans rated in good to excellent condition.

Consistent rainfall continued throughout July. Topsoil moisture level ratings averaged 93 percent adequate or surplus during the month. The average temperature for July was 74.3 degrees. By the end of July, winter wheat harvesting wrapped up just behind its five-year average. Corn silking and soybean blooming progress continued well ahead of their respective five-year averages. Corn and soybeans were faring better than they had the year previous with 73 percent of corn and 68 percent of soybeans rated in good to excellent condition. Thanks to relatively consistent precipitation throughout the month, livestock enjoyed adequate pasture regrowth with 64 percent of pasture rated in good to excellent condition as July wrapped up.

August was generally hot and dry throughout much of the State, slowly drying out fields saturated from July's consistent rainfall. For the remainder of the growing season, nearly all crop progress items progressed either in line with or ahead of each crop's respective five-year averages. As September ended, the corn and soybean harvesting season was off to a good start with both crops consistently out-performing condition ratings of the year previous. By the end of September, winter wheat planting was in full swing and was progressing consistently ahead of its five-year average.

Corn harvested for silage wrapped up near mid-October. Harvesting progress for corn and soybeans was greatly slowed for much of the State until mid-to-late November due to excessive rainfall in late October and early November. As the harvesting season wrapped up, a reprieve from wet weather spurred all crop progress items helping corn harvested for grain, soybean harvest, and winter wheat emergence to catch up to their respective five-year averages. The 2021 Indiana corn yield was 195.0 bushels per acre while soybeans yielded 59.5 bushels per acre.

PRODUCTION: Indiana corn production in 2021 totaled 1,027.7 million bushels, 5 percent above 2020's total of 981.8 million bushels. Indiana's soybean production totaled 335.6 million bushels, up 2 percent from 2020's 329.4 million bushels. Indiana wheat production at 23.0 million bushels was up 31 percent from 2020's 17.5 million bushels. All hay production at, 1.56 million tons, was up 1 percent from the previous year.



"Unshelled Corn"
Photographer -- Lanie Narwold
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