

CROPS

The 2001 crop season began with mostly adequate topsoil moisture and remained that way throughout the month of April with occasional light rains. This allowed the crops to be planted under very good conditions. A lack of sufficient rains began to show in early May when more than half of the topsoil was rated as less than adequate. The condition did improve during May as rains were a little heavier during the month and most of the topsoil was adequate or surplus by the first of June. Topsoil moisture remained mostly favorable during the month of June with 30 percent below adequate by the end of the month. The month of July had just enough rain to maintain the crops and prevent the topsoil from drying out further. The last real threat to the crops came during the first half of August when rain was even lighter and topsoil moisture declined to 70 percent below adequate. Rains during September and October were generally between one and two inches every other week which only moderately slowed harvest.

Planting conditions for corn were nearly ideal allowing for 11 million acres to be planted at a near record pace. Approximately three-fourths of the corn was in the ground by the first of May. Soybean plantings were also ideal for the first half of the planting season, with a record planted acreage. There were 10.7 million acres planted in 2001. Oats and sorghum were planted at near record paces as well in 2001. By May 7, 99 percent of the oat crop had been planted and 28 percent of the sorghum had been planted. This compares to 98 percent and 11 percent, respectively in 2000. Seeding of the winter wheat crop was slow during the planting period due to cool and wet weather conditions. The crop developed slowly as a result of a cold winter and a cool spring.

Crop yields in Illinois were up in 2001. The corn yield was a pleasant surprise at 152 bushel, one bushel higher than the previous year, but still four bushels below the record yield of 1994. The soybean yield at 45 bushels was up one bushel from 2000 and only a half bushel below the record yield set in 1994. Wheat yield at 61 bushels, tied the record yield that was set in 1997. The wheat yield was up four bushels from the previous year. Sorghum yield at 105 bushels set a new state record, and was up ten bushels from a year earlier. The previous record of 103 bushels was set in 1992. The final oat yield at 80 bushels was up seven bushels over 2000 and tied the record yield set in 1989.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX, 1971-2001

Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/
1971	83	1981	113	1991	99
1972	84	1982	115	1992	128
1973	83	1983	66	1993	112
1974	68	1984	97	1994	136
1975	100	1985	120	1995	102
1976	95	1986	112	1996	118
1977	100	1987	99	1997	121
1978	97	1988	66	1998	127
1979	114	1989	110	1999	124
1980	92	1990	109	2000	133
				2001	134

1/ 1977=100

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX

1971-2001 (1977=100)

