

CROP DEVELOPMENT 2002

The 2002 crop season began with mostly adequate topsoil moisture and remained that way until mid-April when heavy rains stopped most planting. Northern Illinois fared better with timely planting of corn and soybeans occurring into May. Southern Illinois farmers on the other hand were still planting corn and soybeans well into June. This moisture disparity continued through the summer as farmers across the south watched as fields dried up. Topsoil moisture across northern Illinois remained mostly adequate through the summer. Rains during August came in time to help much of the soybean crop but was too late for corn.

The crop production index for 2002 was down ten points from the previous year to 124 percent of the 1977 base, the result of yield losses across much of the state due to dry weather. Production of corn for grain totaled 1.496 billion bushels in 2002, nine percent less than the 2001 production. The final yield was 136 bushels per acre, 16 bushels below the previous year and 20 bushels below the record yield of 1994. Yields were less than what most had hoped for, primarily across southern Illinois, where some of the lowest yields in recent history were recorded. The yield for the 2002 soybean crop was 43 bushels per acre, two bushels below the 2001 yield. Production totaled 449.8 million bushels, six percent below the previous year.

The 2002 yield for sorghum for grain was 83 bushels, 22 bushels below the record yield in 2001. Production, at 6.39 million bushels, was down 21 percent from the previous year. The yield for the 2002 winter wheat crop was 49 bushels per acre, down 12 bushels from the previous year's yield of 61. Total production was 31.9 million bushels, a 27 percent decrease from the 2001 production of 43.9 million bushels and the lowest since 1950. The oats estimate for 2002 placed the production at 3.45 million bushels, eight percent above the 2001 production. The yield, at 69 bushels per acre, was 11 bushels below the previous year. Production of all hay in 2002 was 2.36 million tons, 12 percent less than the previous year. Alfalfa hay production was down 17 percent to 1.62 million tons whereas all other hay production increased two percent to 735 thousand tons. Yields were down for both, with alfalfa dropping from 3.9 to 3.6 tons per acre and all other hay dropping from 2.4 to 2.1 tons per acre.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX, 1972-2002

Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/
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
1981	113	1991	99	2001	134
				2002	124

1/ 1977=100.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX

1972-2002 (1977=100)

