



National Agricultural
Statistics Service

United States Department of Agriculture



Illinois Department
of Agriculture

Illinois Field Office • PO Box 19283 • Springfield, IL 62794-9283 • www.nass.usda.gov/il • 217-492-4295

Dear Friend:

We are happy to bring you another edition of the *Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Bulletin*. This annual bulletin represents the efforts of a large number of people all around Illinois and serves as a historical document which recaps the results from a multitude of surveys during the previous year. The basic information is supplied voluntarily by thousands of grain farmers, livestock producers, fruit and vegetable growers, grain elevators, slaughter and dairy plants, retail stores that serve farm families, and other producers and agribusinesses. Our mission is to **“serve Illinois, its agriculture and its rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information.”**

The year 2006 was certainly a productive year for most producers in the agriculture community and one we might consider a pivotal year, ushering in a new era of prosperity for grain farmers across the State. To recap, corn and soybeans were planted at a pace ahead of their respective five year averages with excellent stands being reported. Mother Nature also provided some support with precipitation and temperatures averaging near normal during the critical growing months of June, July and August. However, not all areas were as fortunate as dry conditions plagued the western boundaries for much of that period resulting in significantly lower yields.

Overall, corn yields averaged a respectable 163 bushels per acre, 20 more than the drought stricken 2005 crop year, soybeans came in at 48 bushels per acre, 1.5 better than 2005 and soft red winter wheat established a new milestone with a State record, 67 bushels per acre. Season average prices for winter wheat, corn and soybeans came in at \$3.45, \$3.35 and \$6.40, respectively. Livestock producers also took some profits with season average prices for all beef, all hogs and all milk at \$85.60, \$46.70 and \$14.10 per hundred weights, respectively.

Teamwork is important in many areas of life and business. The Illinois Field Office is no different. We are blessed with outstanding players and superior performance. We hope you find this publication helpful to you in gaining a better perspective on Illinois agriculture. Give us a call if we can be of assistance to you.

Respectfully,

Brad Schwab, Director Illinois Agricultural Statistics

