

CROP DEVELOPMENT 2006

Illinois farmers got off to a slow start planting their 2006 crops with most of the state's corn being planted during the last two weeks of April, then more cool and wet weather delayed soybean planting. Once planting was complete, the growing season turned dry but a return to favorable moist and cooler than normal weather returned in time to revive the crop. Harvest was delayed, but only slightly, by wetter than normal weather. Yields for corn, soybeans, and wheat all increased because of the improved growing conditions from the 2005 growing season.

The crop production index for 2006 was up 11 points from the previous year to 143 percent of the 1977 base. Corn production totaled 1.82 billion bushels in 2006, six percent more than the previous year. The final yield was 163 bushels per acre, 20 bushels above the previous year's yield of 143 bushels per acre. The yield for the 2006 soybean crop was 48 bushels per acre, one and one half bushels above the 2005 yield of 46.5 bushels per acre. Production totaled 482 million bushels, 10 percent above the previous year.

The 2006 yield for sorghum for grain was 89 bushels per acre, 3 bushels below the yield in 2005. Sorghum production, at 6.41 million bushels, was down 16 percent from the previous year. The yield for the 2006 winter wheat crop was a record 67 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above the previous year. Total production was 61 million bushels, a 67 percent increase from the 2005 production of 36.3 million bushels. The oats yield, at 77 bushels per acre, was down 2 bushels from 2005. Production of all hay in 2006 was 2.51 million tons, 16 percent above 2005. Alfalfa hay production was up 29 percent to 1.8 million tons. All other hay production decreased 7 percent to 704 thousand tons. The alfalfa yield increased from 3.5 to 4.1 tons per acre while all other hay yields declined from 2.3 to 2.2 tons per acre.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX, 1976-2006

Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/
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
1982	115	1992	128	2002	124
1983	66	1993	112	2003	129
1984	97	1994	136	2004	156
1985	120	1995	102	2005	132
				2006	143

1/ 1977=100.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX

1976-2006 (1977=100)

