



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 4

Soybean harvest advanced rapidly, and corn harvest made modest progress last week according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Farmers took full advantage of dry conditions until cool, damp weather arrived over the weekend, halting harvest activities across much of the state.

CORN

Ninety-five percent of the **corn** is **mature** (safe from frost), about a week ahead of average for this date. By region, 97 percent is mature in the north, 97 percent in the central, and 86 percent in the south. Nineteen percent of the corn acreage has been **harvested**, also about a week ahead of average. By region, 19 percent has been harvested in the north, 18 percent in the central, and 24 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging around 19 percent.

SOYBEANS

Ninety-six percent of the **soybeans** are **shedding leaves**, 5 points ahead of average. By region, 98 percent of the crop is shedding leaves in the north, 97 percent in the central, and 89 percent in the south. Eighty-seven percent of the crop is reported to be **mature**. Forty-five percent of the soybean acreage has been **harvested**, well ahead of 24 percent last year and the 25 percent average. By region, 43 percent has been harvested in the north, 52 percent in the central, and 30 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging around 11.5 percent.

WINTER WHEAT

Twenty-four percent of the **winter wheat** acreage has been **seeded**, ahead of the 18 percent average. Only two percent of the crop is **emerged**, due to dry soil conditions.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition is rated 2 percent excellent, 14 percent good, 42 percent fair, 30 percent poor and 12 percent very poor. **Tobacco harvest** is 88 percent complete, compared with 73 percent last year and the 90 percent average.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 6.8 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 30 percent very short, 53 percent short, 16 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 22 percent very short, 57 percent short, and 21 percent adequate.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Corn Mature	95	85	81	84
Corn Harvested	19	14	5	12
Soybeans Shedding	96	92	93	91
Soybeans Mature	87	74	75	69
Soybeans Harvested	45	20	24	25
Wheat Planted	24	7	19	18
Wheat Emerged	2	1	5	3

CROP CONDITION

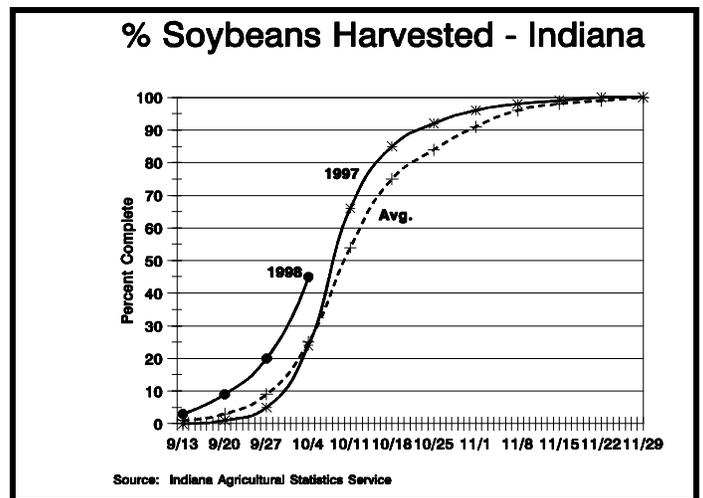
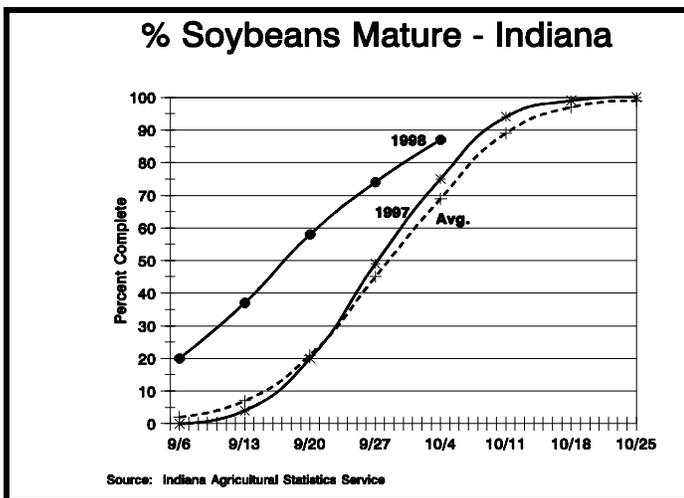
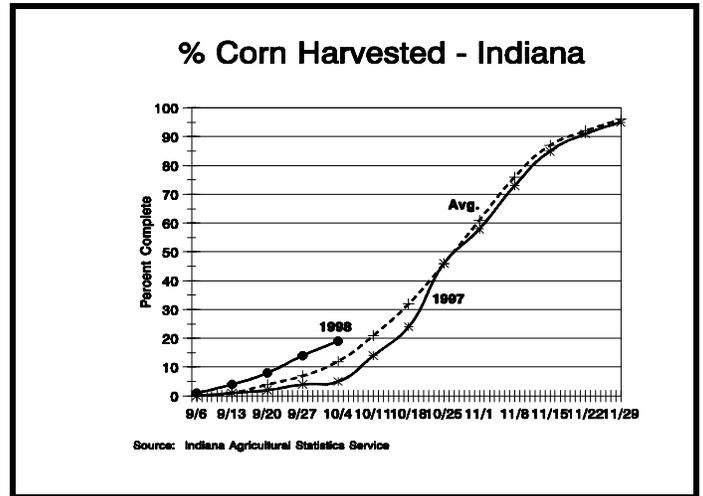
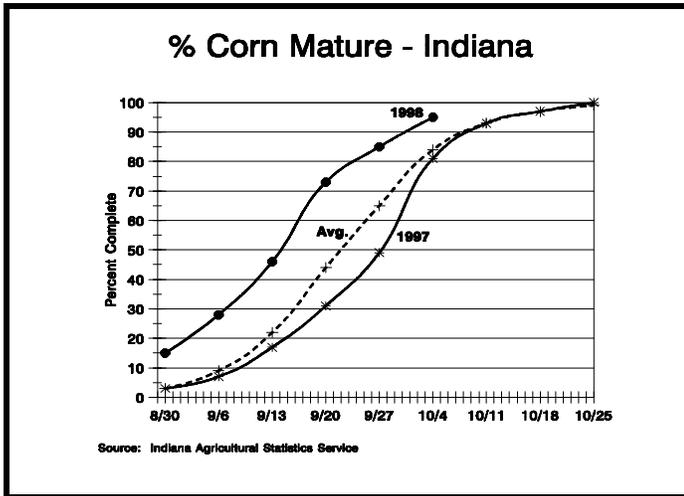
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	12	30	42	14	2

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil			
Very Short	30	25	16
Short	53	51	33
Adequate	16	23	50
Surplus	1	1	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	22	22	15
Short	57	45	30
Adequate	21	32	54
Surplus	0	1	1

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Crop Progress



Fewer Dying In Accidents On Indiana Farms

Congratulations. It appears you're being careful out there.

A summary of Indiana farm fatalities shows that 21 people died in farm accidents in 1997--three fewer than 1996 and half of 1995's rate.

Bill Field, director of Purdue's Agricultural Safety and Health Program, says Indiana farm deaths have been steadily declining.

"Twenty years ago, the number of annual deaths in Indiana was in the high 40s, sometimes in the 50s, but we've been around 25 deaths for the past few years," Field says. He cites three reasons:

"First of all, there are fewer farms. Next, the equipment is safer than it was several years ago--the most

common cause of death is tractor rollovers, and more tractors now have rollover protection structures. Third, the efforts by our program and others like it seem to be having an effect on how the farmers go about their job."

One category in which there has been a sharp reduction is the number of deaths of people ages 1 to 17. "I feel good that we don't see the flow of reports of children dying that we used to see a few years ago," Field says. "In 1982 about a third of the fatalities were children. Now it's down to 15 percent that's about half of the rate of other states. That's a real reflection of the effectiveness of Purdue's Rural Indiana Safer Kids (RISK) program and 4-H programs that stress safety. I think we've made a real difference."

(Continued on Page 4.)

Weather Data

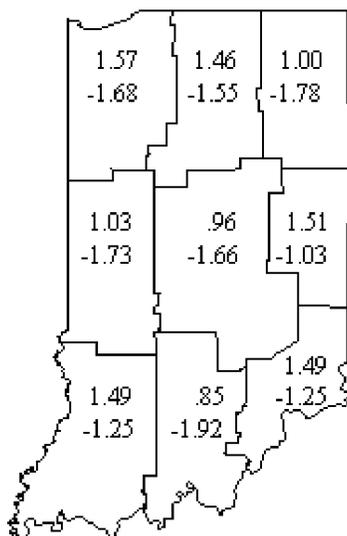
Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning October 5, 1998

Area	Station	Air Temperature			Precipitation			Growing Degree Days		
		Max	Min	DN	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1
NW	Wanatah	68	42	-2	.88	20.97	-2.57	68	3106	+365
	Kentland	70	47	-1	.36	24.76	+1.52	74	3455	+395
	Winamac	67	46	-1	.57	24.45	+1.76	66	3338	+450
NC	South Bend	65	48	-1	.49	21.46	-1.17	59	3292	+466
	Waterford Mills	67	47	-1	.65	23.88	+2.40	65	3305	+436
NE	Prairie Heights	68	47	+1	.32	20.51	-1.61	66	3332	+768
	Columbia City	67	46	+0	.34	20.97	-1.08	63	3224	+475
	Fort Wayne	67	47	-1	.48	24.01	+3.81	66	3333	+362
	Bluffton	67	47	-2	.09	25.39	+3.77	66	3409	+369
WC	West Lafayette	70	46	-1	.38	26.14	+3.72	72	3459	+501
	Perrysville	71	49	-1	.22	31.39	+6.59	81	3582	+197
	Crawfordsville	71	45	-1	.24	28.06	+6.19	78	3399	+415
	Terre Haute 8s	72	52	+2	.27	26.68	+2.57	92	3891	+580
C	Tipton	69	46	-1	.50	31.09	+8.20	72	3246	+351
	Indianapolis	71	53	+1	.79	29.65	+7.12	88	3717	+434
	Indian Creek	72	51	+2	.33	26.92	+3.69	88	3707	+591
EC	Farmland	70	49	+2	.58	25.12	+3.03	76	3343	+523
	Liberty	71	48	+1	.75	25.50	+1.75	79	3465	+355
SW	Vincennes	77	52	+3	.20	32.21	+8.58	109	3847	+463
	Dubois	77	51	+3	.51	28.77	+2.82	107	3744	+407
	Evansville	81	58	+7	.08	24.79	+1.99	139	4102	+390
SC	Bedford	73	51	+2	.32	34.26	+9.82	93	3652	+447
	Louisville	80	61	+7	.91	28.61	+4.73	142	4250	+563
SE	Butlerville	74	49	+0	.26	33.25	+9.82	91	3599	+164

DN = departure from normal.

Growing Degree Days = daily mean - 50 (below 50 adjusted to 50, above 86 adjusted to 86.)

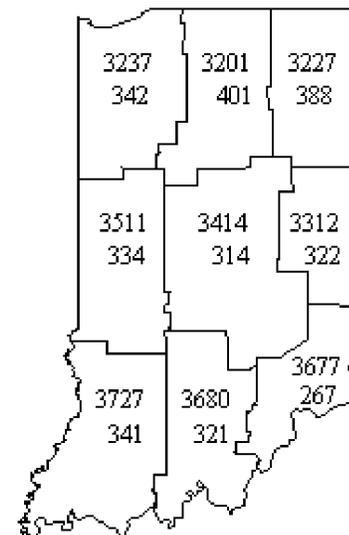
Rainfall for Past 4 Weeks
and Departure from Normal



Rainfall of 1 Inch or More
for Past 7 Days
as of Monday morning



Growing Degree Days
and Departure since April 1



Fewer (continued)

Field says there are patterns that may serve as warnings:

- Almost all of the deaths are males; only one female was killed on the farm in Indiana in 1997.
- The biggest killer in 1997 was tractor overturns, and the second biggest was tractor run-overs," Field says.
- "Tractors were involved in 38 percent of the deaths. It's usually about half. Livestock-related incidents were the third-highest cause of death, and the fourth-most-common cause of fatalities was grain entrapments."
- More than half of the victims are 60 or older. "There's no other hazardous occupation that regularly uses laborers in their 70s and 80s," Field says.
- A quarter of the fatalities are part-time hobby farmers. "They tend to be less experienced, and that leads to problems. They also tend to buy old equipment that lacks safety features."
- Many of the children killed on the farm were in the care of grandparents. "The grandparents' perception of risk, what a child can or can't do, isn't as good as it once was. They take the children into dangerous situations without fully recognizing the risk," Field says.

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