



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 4

Corn and soybean condition improved from the previous week due to beneficial showers received throughout the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Even though showers were spotty, most areas in the north and central parts of the state received enough rainfall to give crops a boost. Reporters in southern Indiana claimed rainfall amounts varied from just enough to excessive. Major activities during the week included harvesting wheat, second cutting of alfalfa, post-emergence spraying, monitoring fields for insects, cutting and baling hay, mowing roadsides and caring for livestock.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

The **Corn** crop continues to make good progress. Growth and development is ahead of last year and the average for this time of the year. Corn condition is rated 87 percent good to excellent compared with 59 percent last year at this time. **Planting** of double crop soybeans was winding up last week. Soybeans blooming totaled 24 percent of the crop, well ahead of the 8 percent last year and the 5-year average of 6 percent. Soybean condition improved from last week and is now rated 81 percent good to excellent, compared with 61 percent last year.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat condition is rated 80 percent good to excellent compared with 55 percent last year. Excessive moisture levels in some southern counties led to the slight drop in condition from the previous week. **Harvest** made good progress in the north and central parts of the state but was limited by wet conditions throughout most of southern Indiana. Harvest is 51 percent complete compared with 66 percent last year and 34 percent for the 5-year average.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition improved from last week and was rated 11 percent excellent, 58 percent good, 27 percent fair, and 4 percent poor. Second cutting of **alfalfa** hay is 44 percent complete, compared with 31 percent last year.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 3.1 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 2 percent very short, 11 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 22 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 3 percent very short, 14 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Silking	5	NA	3	2
Soybeans Blooming	24	8	8	6
Wheat Harvested	51	36	66	34
Alfalfa, Second Cutting	44	25	31	NA

CROP CONDITION

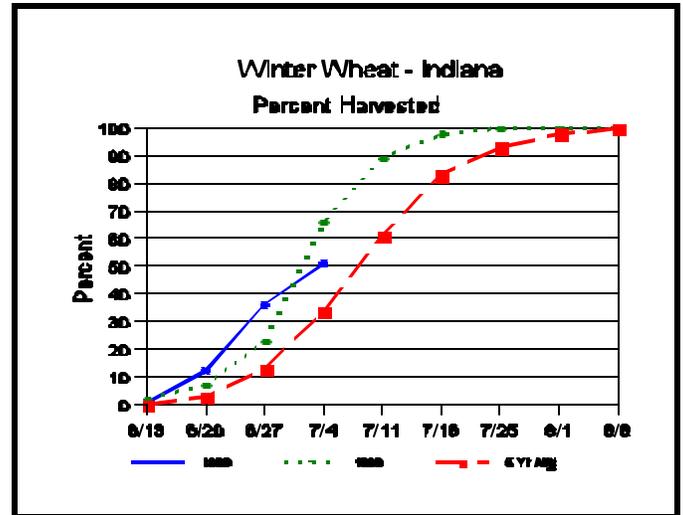
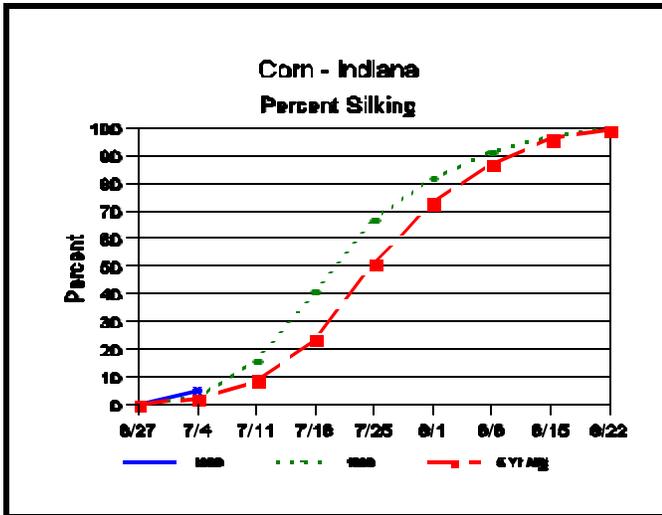
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel- lent
Percent					
Corn	0	1	12	56	31
Soybeans	0	2	17	58	23
Winter Wheat	2	3	15	57	23
Pasture	0	4	27	58	11

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	6	1
Short	11	27	6
Adequate	65	63	64
Surplus	22	4	29
Subsoil			
Very Short	3	4	0
Short	14	31	4
Adequate	70	63	68
Surplus	13	2	28

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Crop Progress



Double-Cropping Gives Wheat Growers Second Income

Planting soybeans after an expected early wheat harvest may give Ohio and Indiana farmers a good chance at extra income, say agronomists Jim Beuerlein of Ohio State and Ellsworth Christmas of Purdue.

"It's been so dry and so hot in Ohio, that soybeans are not growing well," Beuerlein says. "That might be a reason to double crop."

In Indiana, Christmas says the wheat crop should be ready for harvest about four to five days earlier than usual and that farms at the northern edge of the traditional double-crop line may be better candidates for double-cropping than usual, due to favorable weather.

"The area of Indiana where double-cropping of soybeans following wheat could be attempted would be south and west of a line from Brookville northwest to Warsaw and then west to Wheatfield," he says. "This is based on a 25-percent probability of a 32-degree frost."

Christmas adds, however, that double-cropping at or near the northern line is "very risky."

Beuerlein says that with normal weather, double-cropped soybeans will yield about half of a conventional crop, and soybeans can break even with 15 bushels per acre.

At 10 days ahead of usual, Ohio's wheat crop is one of the earliest in recent memory. Beuerlein says the crop is so far ahead, producers in southern Ohio may be able to begin harvesting now. And the best double-crop plan has the soybean planting happening on the same day the wheat is harvested, for a variety of reasons.

Not the least of those reasons is to get as much growing time in as possible, so beans can mature fully before the first frost.

In northern Ohio, soybean varieties from maturity groups late 2 and early group 3 can usually mature by mid-October. Southern Ohio growers should consider groups 3 and early group 4, Beuerlein says.

Christmas suggests Indiana farmers choose varieties that have a maturity one-half group earlier than a full-season variety for their areas. "If a group 3.5 is considered a full-season soybean for your area, use a variety with a maturity of 3.0," he says.

Double-cropped soybeans need soil moisture to get growing. Beuerlein and Christmas agree that no-till is essential, not only to retain moisture, but to save time in getting the crop into the ground the same day the wheat is harvested.

"No-tillage planting can make the difference between satisfactory and unsatisfactory seed germination resulting from the moisture saved," Beuerlein says.

(Continued on Page 4.)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday July 4, 1999

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 1999 thru July 4, 1999				
							4 in	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest(1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	89	54	75	+3	1.60	2		13.62	+1.02	38	1268	+194
Wanatah	90	50	71	-2	1.92	4	78	14.37	+2.41	41	1086	+68
Winamac	89	58	74	+3	1.12	1		13.20	+1.28	33	1288	+178
North Central(2)												
Logansport	89	60	74	+2	0.63	3		13.41	+1.95	41	1305	+180
Plymouth	91	55	74	+1	2.16	4		16.08	+3.66	41	1272	+113
South_Bend	89	56	74	+3	2.15	3		13.51	+1.84	39	1315	+260
Young_America	89	57	74	+2	0.55	3		10.23	-1.23	37	1210	+85
Northeast(3)												
Bluffton	91	58	74	+2	0.14	2	77	8.94	-3.12	33	1313	+158
Fort_Wayne	92	59	75	+2	0.28	4		11.63	+0.74	40	1280	+169
West Central(4)												
Crawfordsville	90	56	74	+0	0.55	4	75	10.96	-1.66	42	1214	-35
Perrysville	89	57	74	+1	0.10	3	79	11.06	-1.63	40	1377	+166
Terre_Haute_Ag	90	59	75	+0	1.37	5		13.59	+1.07	42	1543	+242
W_Lafayette_6NW	91	58	75	+3	0.65	3	80	13.57	+1.78	40	1342	+210
Central(5)												
Castleton	89	61	76	+2	1.75	4		12.69	+0.73	46	1388	+125
Greenfield	89	55	74	+1	1.10	4		10.02	-2.44	45	1377	+162
Indianapolis_AP	91	60	76	+3	0.60	4		11.05	-0.68	42	1500	+212
Indianapolis_SE	89	54	74	-1	1.04	3		11.33	-0.63	46	1336	+73
Tipton_Ag	89	56	74	+2	0.46	4	73	11.01	-0.72	36	1212	+125
Wheatfield	91	57	74	+3	2.91	3		17.59	+5.73	36	1287	+236
East Central(6)												
Farmland	91	53	75	+3	1.02	3	73	9.45	-2.55	42	1296	+248
New_Castle	87	54	71	-2	2.50	4		11.47	-1.52	42	1179	+103
Southwest(7)												
Dubois_Ag	90	56	76	+2	4.35	5	79	16.37	+2.50	41	1486	+170
Evansville	90	61	77	-1	2.50	5		16.29	+3.53	40	1648	+97
Freelandville	90	59	75	-2	4.69	4		17.90	+4.77	40	1463	+107
Shoals	90	58	74	-1	3.81	5		15.42	+1.41	35	1398	+101
Vincennes_5NE	91	60	76	+1	1.83	5	78	17.12	+3.99	51	1525	+169
South Central(8)												
Bloomington	91	56	75	+1	1.56	3		13.42	+0.65	38	1480	+162
Tell_City	90	63	77	+2	2.52	5		14.54	+0.24	33	1651	+197
Southeast(9)												
Butlerville	90	56	75	+1	1.74	4	75	13.19	+0.61	47	1435	+71
Scottsburg	92	58	76	+2	1.69	4		12.35	-0.63	34	1541	+197

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Double-Cropping (Continued)

There should be enough post-harvest mulch to conserve moisture, but not so much that it will interfere with planting. Set the combine header to leave a 6-8-inch stubble when the straw will be baled.

Alternatively, Beuerlein suggests the straw be chopped and spread evenly over the field. A no-till planter or drill can properly place seed through chopped straw if soil is not excessively wet or dry.

Fertility usually is not a problem in a harvested wheat field, Beuerlein says. Varieties that are genetically engineered for herbicide tolerance can afford easier weed control in a double-crop situation.

The double-crop seeding rate should be 225,000-to-250,000 seeds per acre in 7-inch rows, or about 3.2-to-3.6 seeds per foot of a 7.5-inch row, Beuerlein says.

Christmas cautions farmers against making the double-crop decision before carefully estimating cost and the profit.

"Push your pencil really hard to determine the total costs that will be involved," he says. "The 1999 soybean crop will likely be rather large, resulting in

low harvest prices. I would suggest that you use your county loan rate as a target price. This will be around \$5.26 per bushel. If your cost figures require a yield that is not attainable, do not plant."

Other points that Christmas urges growers to consider:

- C Can you harvest wheat at 20- to 22-percent moisture and dry it to 12.5- or 13-percent for market? If so, you can plant double-crop soybeans this year from seven to 10 days earlier than usual.
- C Can your combine chop and spread residue evenly? If not, be sure to leave 8 inches of stubble after straw is removed.
- C Do you have a good no-till drill that can cut through residue and put seeds at the proper depth? Whatever you do -- don't till!
- C Do you have a burndown herbicide to kill all vegetation when you plant, as well as a product for control during the rest of the season? Make sure you have both.
- C Finally, is your soil moist enough for seeds to germinate? If not, don't plant!

Amy Raley, Ag Communications, Purdue University

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