Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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Released: Monday, 3PM September 27, 1999 Vol. 49, #26 West Lafayette, IN 47907

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26

Corn and soybean harvest is in full swing around the state. Corn harvest is 17 days ahead of average and soybean harvest is a week ahead of average. Field conditions remain very dry and fire is a major concern with farmers, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Major activities during the week included harvesting corn, soybeans and tobacco, tilling soils, seeding winter wheat, hauling grain and care of livestock.

CORN

Corn **condition** is rated 29 percent good to excellent compared with 64 percent at this time last year. Ninety-five percent of the corn acreage is **mature** compared with 83 percent last year and 67 percent for average. Twenty-seven percent of the corn acreage has been **harvested** compared with 13 percent last year and 9 percent for the average. By region, 14 percent of the corn acreage is harvested in the north, 26 percent in the central and 57 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging 18 percent.

SOYBEANS

Soybean **condition** is rated 23 percent good to excellent compared with 65 percent last year. Ninety-eight percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 91 percent last year and 78 percent for average. Seventy-five percent of the soybean crop is **mature** compared with 72 percent a year ago and 50 percent for the average. Twenty-eight percent of the soybean acreage has been **harvested** compared with 18 percent last year and 11 percent for average. By region, 26 percent of the soybean acreage is harvested in the north, 31 percent in the central and 25 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging around 11 percent.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition was rated 1 percent good, 11 percent fair, 31 percent poor and 57 percent very poor. Seeding of **winter wheat** is 6 percent complete compared with 7 percent last year and 8 percent for the average. **Tobacco** harvest is 91 percent complete compared with 79 percent for the 5-year average.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 7.0 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork** . **Topsoil moisture** was rated 75 percent very short, 22 percent short and 3 percent adequate. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 70 percent very short, 26 percent short and 4 percent adequate.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Mature	95	83	83	67
Corn Harvested	27	14	13	9
Soybeans Shedding Lv	98	85	91	78
Soybeans Mature	75	50	72	50
Soybeans Harvested	28	12	18	11
Tobacco Harvested	91	86	84	79
Winter Wheat Seeded	6	2	7	8
Winter Wheat Emerged	0	NA	1	1

CROP CONDITION

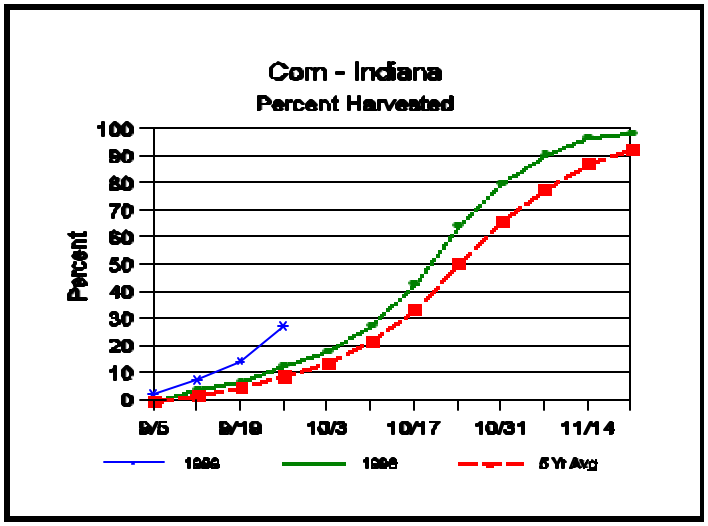
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Corn	9	19	43	26	3
Soybeans	12	22	43	21	2
Pasture	57	31	11	1	0

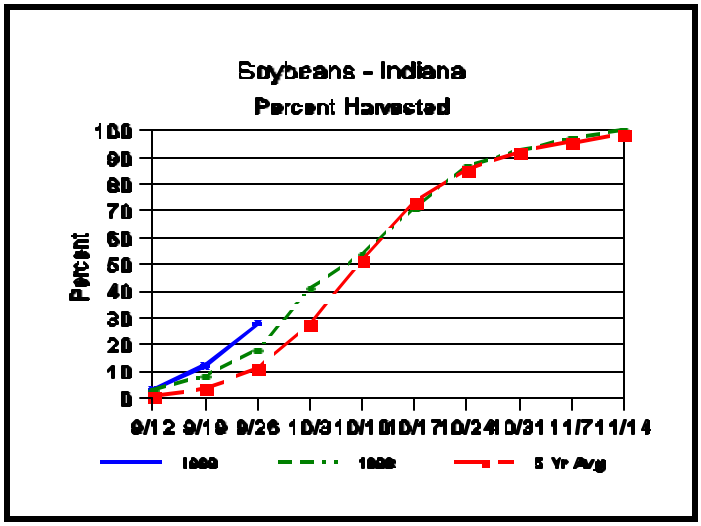
SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	75	66	25
Short	22	31	51
Adequate	3	3	23
Surplus	0	0	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	70	62	22
Short	26	34	45
Adequate	4	4	32
Surplus	0	0	1

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html

Crop Progress





Grain Quality Issues Related to Genetically Modified Crops

Harvest is progressing rapidly and new announcements from grain buyers (including elevators and processors about accepting or not accepting genetically modified (GMO) corn and soybeans keep coming up. These concerns have arisen primarily due to increased consumer resistance to products containing genetically modified ingredients in Europe and Asia in recent weeks. This sentiment should not be underestimated as U.S. consumers are also becoming more aware of the issue of genetically modified ingredients in human foods. Public awareness has been fueled in part by attacks of radical environementalists who have destroyed several GMO crops in research plots around the country, and who have threatened to step up attacks. Several key points to keep in mind for Indiana producers as they harvest their crops this fall:

1. Farmers should check with their buyers regarding their current GMO buying policy and be aware that this policy could change throughout the marketing year. Most of the major processors have signaled that products must be kept separate. In turn, many elevators and other first purchasers are requesting the same of producers.

2. Farmers should keep GMO and non-GMO corn and beans segregated in their farm storage bins as much as possible in order to (a) take advantage of differential pricing such as premiums for non-GMO beans or STS beans, etc., and (b) avoid being rejected by their buyer should their policy change later in the year. Detailed record keeping that is complete will be critical if any disputes arise about crop purity. Record planting dates, field location and size, seed identity, inputs used, harvest date, crop yield, bin number where crop is stored, date crop is delivered, and the name of the person who delivered the crop and the number of the vehicle used.

3. Farmers should be aware that there is no reliable quick test available yet to detect GMO corn or beans at the first point of sale. Thus, actual testing for GMO germplasm for the 1999 crop will be spotty with heavy reliance on producer representation as to which loads are GMO and which are non-GMO.

4. Farmers should be careful as to what statements they make or NOT make orally (or sign) regarding GMO germplasm in the crops they deliver to the buyer! According to Dr. Neil E. Harl, Iowa State University Professor and Member of the Iowa Bar, farmers can realistically: State that no seed represented by the seed company as GMO seed was planted. State that seed represented by the seed company as non-GMO seed was planted.

   State that care was taken in avoiding contamination in harvesting (combines, grain carts, wagons, trucks), handling (pits, legs, cleaners, bins, augers) and hauling equipment (trucks).

   On the other hand, farmers should be careful NOT to: State that the crop in question has no GMO germplasm.

   State that no contamination has occurred from mechanical harvesting, handling and storage of the crop. State that no contamination has occurred from pollen drift. (Continued on Page 4.)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday September 26, 1999

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation April 1, 1999 thru September 26, 1999				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest(1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	85	38	62	-2	0.02	1		18.49	-5.05	61	3017	+293
Wanatah	88	27	57	-5	0.00	0	70	18.18	-4.59	61	2516	-86
Wheatfield	89	37	60	-3	0.00	0		23.30	+1.20	53	3022	+362
Winamac	87	39	60	-3	0.00	0	69	18.59	-3.41	49	3022	+283
North Central(2)												
Logansport	88	38	60	-4	0.01	1		18.19	-3.10	64	3092	+259
Plymouth	85	34	59	-5	0.00	0		21.16	-1.29	65	2975	+94
South_Bend	84	38	61	-1	0.00	0		17.82	-4.00	53	3153	+451
Young_America	85	45	64	+2	0.00	0		14.52	-6.77	58	3146	+313
Northeast(3)												
Bluffton	85	37	60	-4	0.12	3	65	17.39	-3.72	58	3129	+225
Fort_Wayne	83	37	61	-2	0.00	0		15.40	-4.18	58	3086	+255
West Central(4)												
Crawfordsville	88	28	58	-6	0.04	1	65	15.12	-7.79	61	2875	-153
Perrysville	89	37	62	-3	0.01	1	73	15.44	-7.77	55	3147	+176
Terre_Haute_Ag	91	34	63	-2	0.05	1	71	16.76	-6.60	58	3623	+454
W_Lafayette_6NW	87	40	61	-2	0.04	1	68	19.30	-2.45	57	3131	+313
Central(5)												
Castleton	88	37	61	-4	0.05	2		16.84	-5.44	71	3288	+153
Greenfield	87	38	61	-4	0.04	2		14.04	-9.82	64	3263	+241
Indianapolis_AP	87	37	63	-2	0.05	1		15.23	-6.58	60	3476	+335
Indianapolis_SE	86	34	61	-4	0.05	2		14.65	-7.63	67	3188	+53
Tipton_Ag	87	31	59	-4	0.04	1	63	14.66	-7.45	55	2889	+157
East Central(6)												
Farmland	86	30	59	-4	0.00	0	59	16.01	-5.52	60	3009	+340
New_Castle	87	34	59	-4	0.03	2		16.00	-6.81	63	2806	+71
Southwest(7)												
Dubois_Ag	89	40	64	-2	0.05	1	69	19.32	-5.79	55	3464	+260
Evansville	88	37	64	-3	0.09	2		18.85	-3.16	57	3744	+104
Freelandville	85	38	62	-4	0.00	0		21.47	-1.44	53	3431	+158
Shoals	88	36	60	-6	0.04	1		18.45	-6.30	50	3265	+90
Vincennes_5NE	87	36	63	-3	0.04	2	68	20.89	-2.02	72	3565	+292
South Central(8)												
Bloomington	90	37	62	-4	0.05	2		15.89	-7.71	52	3466	+249
Tell_City	89	41	65	-3	0.05	1		16.43	-8.80	48	3902	+386
Southeast(9)												
Butlerville	89	32	61	-6	0.10	2	67	17.86	-4.75	68	3322	+56
Scottsburg	89	35	62	-4	0.00	0		15.19	-8.40	46	3525	+264

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.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

(1) Farmers should be aware that there is a website available to locate buyers of genetically modified grains. The American Seed Trade Association has created a Web database to "help you locate grain handling facilities that have indicated a willingness to purchase, receive, and handle genetically enhanced corn that has not yet been approved for import into the European Union." The URL for the ASTA Web site is http://asta.farmprogress.com/

(2) Farmers should make smart seed buying choices this winter because the GMO vs. non-GMO issue will unlikely be resolved in time for next year's planting season. I expect that next year there will continue to be marketing opportunities for non-GMO crops with premiums. By that time quick test kits should be available at every point of sale that will detect the difference between GMO and non-GMO loads. However, even non-GMO crops will likely never be completely free of GMO germplasm. But the GMO level may be at an acceptably low level. A key problem is that no one has set acceptable tolerances. Without tolerances, no one knows for sure where the line will be drawn.

(3) Our NIR Grain Composition Analysis Service cannot detect differences between GMO vs. non-GMO crops. However, it can give the protein, oil and starch content of corn, and the protein, oil and fiber content of beans. Producers, farm managers, crop consultants, and elevator operators may submit samples for that purpose. More information is available at: http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~grainlab

According to Dr. Harl, the issues concerning harvesting, handling, storage and delivery of genetically modified crops this season adds up to a "high stakes legal problem for everyone involved". Eventually, with reliable testing at every point at which the crop is commingled - at the elevator receiving station, the processor's bins or at export vessels - it will be possible to monitor more closely what is GMO and what is non-GMO (or more likely, what contains only low levels of GMO germplasm). But the system is not there yet and will not be capable of that type and extent of testing during the 1999-2000 crop season.

The following websites contain additional useful reference material on this subject:
http://www.bae.umn.edu/extens/postharvest/tempstor.html#SegCrops
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pages/grain

The following web sites contain information about available GMO test kits:
http://www.sdix.com http://www.envirologix.com

--Dirk E. Maier, Agricultural & Biological Engineering, Purdue University

The INDIANA CROP WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN 0442-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Purdue University, 1148 AgAd Bldg, Rm 223, West Lafayette IN 47907-1148. Second Class postage paid at Lafayette IN. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Purdue University, 1148 AgAd Bldg, Rm 223, West Lafayette IN 47907-1148.