



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 1148 AGAD BLDG, ROOM 223
 WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47907-1148
 Phone (765)494-8371
 Phone (800)363-0469
 FAX (765)494-4315
 FAX (800)363-0475

Released: Monday, 4PM

November 5, 2001

Vol. 51, #44

West Lafayette, IN 47907

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 4

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Corn and soybean harvest steadily gained momentum during the week where soil conditions were suitable for use of heavy equipment, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Many farmers were concentrating on soybean harvest while others were harvesting corn and seeding winter wheat. Wet soil conditions and ponds still exist. Ruts are showing up in many fields. Corn harvest remains 7 days behind average and soybean harvest is 9 days behind average. Lodging of corn plants is a major problem. Farmers were also tilling soils, chopping stalks, repairing equipment, moving grain to market, hauling manure and spreading fertilizer during the week.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.1 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Sixty-five percent of the corn acreage is **harvested** compared with 90 percent a year earlier and 77 percent for the 5-year average. By region, 51 percent of the corn acreage is harvested in the north, 65 percent in the central region and 91 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging 18 percent.

Eighty-five percent of the soybean acreage is **harvested** compared with 96 percent last year and 94 percent for the average. By region, 79 percent of the soybean acreage is harvested in the north, 90 percent in the central region and 84 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging 12.0 percent.

Eighty-eight percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is seeded compared with 97 percent last year and 95 percent for the average. Seventy percent of the winter wheat acreage is **emerged** compared with 78 percent last year and 78 percent for the average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 6 percent excellent, 48 percent good, 30 percent fair, 13 percent poor and 3 percent very poor. Pastures are in mostly good shape for this time of the year. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Harvested	65	50	90	77
Soybeans Harvested	85	69	96	94
Winter Wheat Seeded	88	70	97	95
Winter Wheat Emerged	70	53	78	78

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	3	13	30	48	6
Winter Wheat	4	7	33	48	8

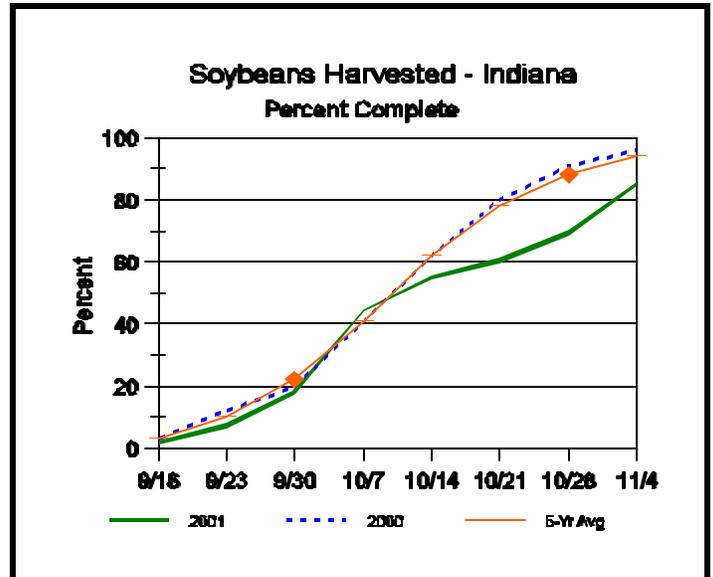
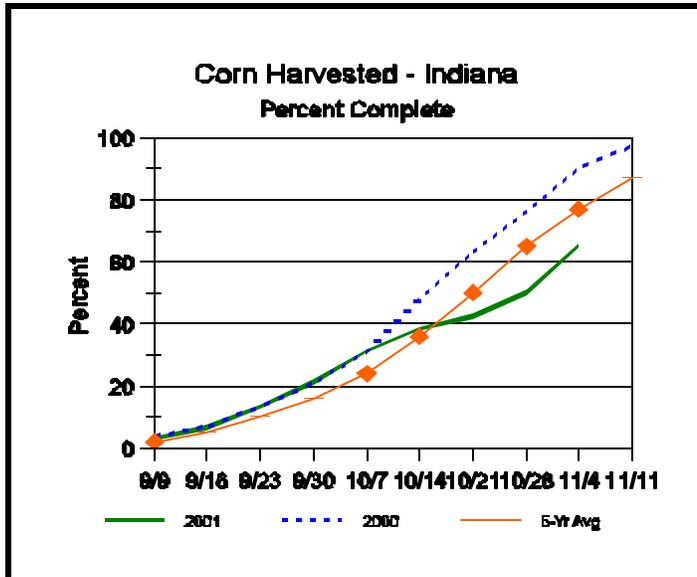
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	1	0	22
Adequate	57	26	69
Surplus	42	74	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	8
Short	5	4	21
Adequate	64	45	66
Surplus	30	50	5
Days Suitable	5.1	2.3	6.7

CONTACT INFORMATION

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
 --Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
 E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm>

Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Bt Corn Costs Often Higher Than Returns in Indiana

Genetically modified seed designed to stop a destructive worm from devouring corn plants may itself take a bite out of some corn growers' profits, says a Purdue University agricultural economist.

Farmers at the eastern end of the nation's Corn Belt are less likely to recover the cost of planting seed containing the gene *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt, than producers farther west, said Marshall Martin. Martin was among a team of researchers at Purdue who studied the economic impact of planting Bt corn.

Bt corn controls the European corn borer. The 1/8-inch to inch-long corn borer larvae feed on corn leaves and burrow into and through corn stalks, tassels and around ears. Corn borers can attack corn plants throughout the growing season.

The Purdue study found that higher-priced Bt seed, combined with lower corn borer infestation levels and other issues, makes transgenic corn less attractive than traditional varieties for farmers in Indiana.

"The adoption level of Bt corn in the Eastern Corn Belt has been relatively low compared to the average for the Corn Belt and the reported percentage in the western and southwestern parts of the Corn Belt, for two fundamental reasons," Martin said.

"One, our European corn borer infestation level historically has been pretty low, so that the extra cost of the seed cannot be justified based on the number of bushels saved because you planted Bt corn to reduce damage. The second reason is, we have here in the Eastern Corn Belt -- and Indiana in particular -- a number of companies that process

corn for food uses, none of which now will accept any transgenic corn."

Bt corn is engineered to produce the Cry protein, an active substance fatal to corn borers but not humans and animals. When consumed by corn borers, the protein kills the pests within a day or two.

Corn borer infestations are more frequent and severe in parts of Illinois and states to the west and upper Midwest. In Indiana, corn borer problems occur about once every four years.

Because farmers in the Western Corn Belt experience more corn borer damage, the use of Bt and other transgenic corn is greater in those states.

"Nationwide in 2000, 25 percent of the U.S. corn crop was transgenic," Martin said. "This year, based on a June survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it was 26 percent. Of that nationwide use, 18 percent in both years was Bt.

"When we look at Indiana specifically, in 2000 only 7 percent of corn was Bt. This year it dropped to 6 percent. As you move eastward, there's less infestation and less adoption. Ohio, for example, was only about 6 percent Bt a year ago and 7 percent this year."

Farmers in Illinois, a corn borer border state, planted about 13 percent of their corn crop in Bt this year.

Analyzing a broad range of data, from crop yields

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday November 4, 2001

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2001 thru				
	Temperature						4 in	November 4, 2001				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
							Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	68	38	55	+8	0.00	0		31.82	+4.16	101	3211	+266
Wanatah	69	34	52	+7	1.07	1	52	34.48	+8.06	97	2885	+95
Wheatfield	69	33	53	+8	1.03	1		31.05	+5.70	89	3153	+308
Winamac	69	33	53	+7	0.36	1	50	32.91	+7.42	93	3139	+203
North Central(2)												
Logansport	68	31	52	+7	0.22	2		37.49	+12.62	91	3190	+158
Plymouth	69	29	52	+5	0.58	2		32.10	+5.77	96	2984	-111
South_Bend	69	37	54	+8	0.75	2		30.59	+4.85	91	3204	+304
Young_America	69	35	53	+8	0.29	2		33.41	+8.54	83	3242	+210
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	69	32	53	+6	0.25	2	48	30.09	+5.81	95	3223	+83
Fort_Wayne	68	37	53	+7	0.31	2		33.44	+10.70	91	3205	+157
West Central (4)												
Crawfordsville	71	21	52	+4	0.23	1	50	31.73	+5.00	84	3143	-135
Perrysville	69	35	55	+8	0.13	1	54	27.73	+1.18	78	3426	+219
Terre_Haute_Ag	70	31	55	+7	0.23	1	54	39.81	+12.90	78	3656	+221
W_Lafayette_6NW	69	32	54	+8	0.12	2	52	28.16	+2.99	80	3358	+325
Central (5)												
Castleton	70	35	56	+8	0.22	1		35.81	+9.91	82	3514	+122
Greenfield	73	39	57	+10	0.38	2		38.38	+10.73	88	3798	+534
Greensburg	69	31	53	+5	0.10	1		35.24	+8.35	91	3636	+456
Indianapolis_AP	71	35	55	+7	0.28	2		33.22	+8.02	74	3733	+334
Indianapolis_SE	70	34	53	+5	0.30	1		33.73	+7.83	83	3366	-26
Tipton_Ag	70	25	52	+6	0.00	0	43	28.49	+2.46	73	3090	+158
East Central (6)												
Farmland	69	34	52	+6	0.14	1	46	34.90	+10.12	89	3140	+282
New_Castle	67	26	50	+5	0.44	1		40.00	+13.42	85	2840	-91
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	74	27	55	+5	0.02	1	52	31.00	+1.82	76	3912	+428
Evansville	72	32	56	+5	0.13	1		31.00	+5.31	76	4243	+278
Freelandville	72	29	54	+5	0.13	1		29.57	+2.91	60	3862	+310
Shoals	73	24	53	+4	0.01	1		32.95	+4.05	74	3666	+222
Vincennes_5NE	72	33	54	+5	0.14	1	50	26.50	-0.16	61	4053	+501
South Central(8)												
Bloomington	71	30	55	+6	0.08	1		32.67	+5.45	80	3663	+156
Tell_City	75	34	57	+6	0.00	0		29.01	-0.08	58	4213	+367
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	72	28	53	+4	0.15	1		32.75	+5.29	93	3793	+258

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.

Copyright 2001: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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.

Bt Corn Costs Often Higher Than Returns In Indiana (Continued)

and values to pesticide cost savings to the technology fees companies factor into the price of the genetically modified seed, Martin and fellow researchers concluded that 40 percent of a Hoosier grower's crop would have to be threatened by corn borers to make Bt use financially viable.

"If you have a 25 percent probability of corn borer infestation like we do in Indiana, and the value of your crop is about \$400 an acre -- or \$2 a bushel corn -- the value of using Bt corn compared to not spraying or doing anything is a little over \$5 an acre," Martin said. "That's about the break-even level. So the decision there would be to not adopt the Bt."

Higher yields and crop values, combined with greater corn borer infestation and smaller technology fees, may warrant planting Bt seed, Martin said. Farmers worried about big crop losses also might be better off with transgenic corn, he added.

"If your financial situation's not as stable and your bank or lender says you need to do something to manage your risk, maybe you better use the Bt," Martin said. "There's this kind of 'insurance value' for some high-risk farmers."

Farmers should consider two other issues before

buying Bt, he said. "The grower needs to look at refuges," Martin said. "By U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirement, farmers must plant at least 20 percent of their acreage within a quarter-to half-mile distance of a non-Bt variety, to maintain a viable population of European corn borer susceptible to being killed by the Bt toxin."

"The other thing farmers need to take into account is the market. If you're in a region where market segregation is necessary because you may be selling corn to a processor that wants to be assured of non-transgenic corn, then you need to be able to plant, grow, harvest, dry, store and transport the non-Bt types and keep them separate."

In the last few growing seasons, non-Bt corn has commanded premiums of between 5 cents and 15 cents per bushel, Martin said.

The Purdue study, "The Economics of Bt Corn: Adoption Implications," is available through the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. It is publication number ID-219.

Jeffrey Hyde, Marshall A. Martin, Paul V. Preckel, and C. Richard Edwards, Departments of Agricultural Economics and Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

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.