



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural
Statistics Service

1435 Win Hentschel Blvd.
Suite B105

West Lafayette, IN 47906-4145
(765) 494-8371

Released: May 13, 2002

Vol. 52, No. 19

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 12

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Another week of frequent showers and wet field conditions kept fieldwork virtually at a standstill in most areas of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Some areas received heavy rainfall especially during the weekend. Flooding and ponding are a major problem in many fields around the state. Some progress was made in the northern region of the state. Corn planting is about three weeks behind the 5-year average. Farmers are getting concerned with the delayed planting. It will be several days of favorable drying conditions before field activities will resume in most areas of the state.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There was 1.0 **day suitable for fieldwork**. Eleven percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 98 percent last year and 69 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 17 percent of the corn acreage is planted in the north, 9 percent in the central regions and 3 percent in the south. Four percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared with 69 percent a year earlier. Emerged corn is yellow in color and emergence of early planted corn is slow. Three percent of the intended **soybean** acreage is planted compared with 76 percent a year ago and 41 percent for the average.

Other activities during the week were preparing equipment, moving grain to market, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

Virtually all of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 100 percent last year and 97 percent for the 5-year average. Thirty-nine percent of the winter wheat is **headed** compared with 51 percent last year and 39 percent for the average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 62 percent good to excellent, below the 66 percent last week and below the 71 percent a year ago at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 21 percent excellent, 59 percent good, 17 percent fair, 2 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. Pastures continue to improve. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Alfalfa Weevil are active in some fields. Spring calving continued.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Corn Planted	11	10	98	69
Corn Emerged	4	1	69	NA
Soybeans Planted	3	2	76	41
Winter Wheat Jointed	100	93	100	97
Winter Wheat Headed	39	13	51	39

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	2	17	59	21
Winter Wheat 2002	1	7	30	49	13
Winter Wheat 2001	2	6	21	59	12

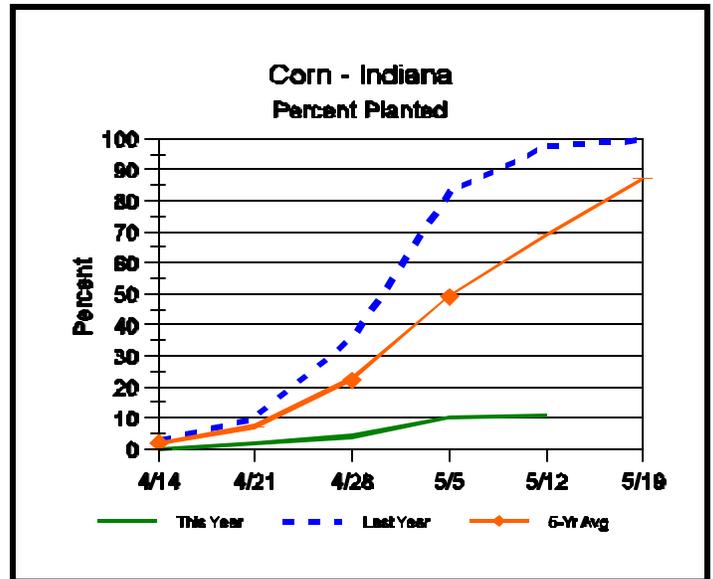
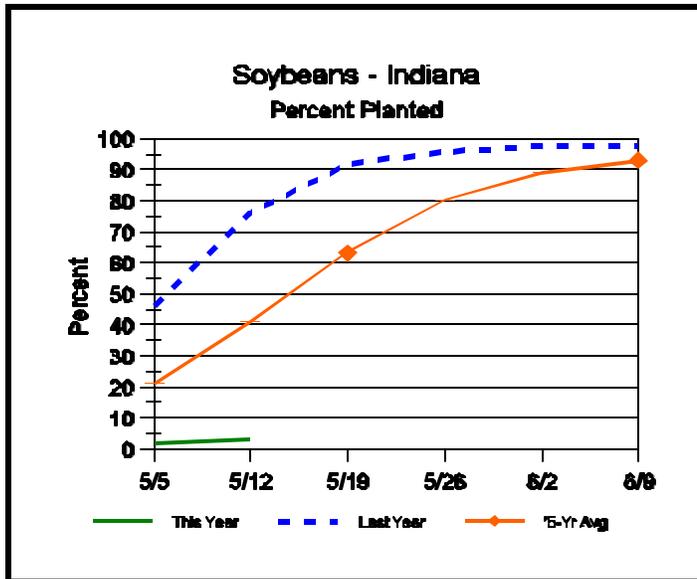
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	18
Short	0	0	38
Adequate	13	32	43
Surplus	87	68	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	17
Short	0	1	39
Adequate	27	47	43
Surplus	73	52	1
Days Suitable	1.0	1.1	5.7

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

Lost Planting Days Not Time to Panic, Specialists Say

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. — Farmers may be wringing their hands over lost planting days, but it isn't yet time to reach for the panic button, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service specialists said today (Wednesday, 5/8) during a news briefing at the Purdue Extension Hamilton County Office.

Waterlogged fields and an overabundance of rain has pushed corn and soybean planting well past both last year's record early planting and the five-year planting average. Despite the delays, there remains sufficient time to put corn seed in the ground. Farmers have even longer to get the soybean crop in.

Still, with rain continuing to fall over already saturated Indiana fields, the planting calendar has become an issue, said Ralph Gann, chief statistician at the Purdue-based Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

"This past Monday our latest report for the state of Indiana suggested that we have about 10 percent of our corn planted at this point," Gann said. "That now puts us two full weeks behind average. This time a year ago we had over 80 percent of the corn planted in the state of Indiana, and producers were beginning to move on into soybeans and beginning to relax.

"What makes this frustrating is we're two weeks behind, and with all the recent rain we're looking at yet further delays before people can actually get back into the fields and start doing much field activity."

Most of the corn planted in Indiana this spring was planted last Thursday, Friday and Saturday (5/2-5/4), Gann said. To date, 14 percent of corn acres are planted in northern counties. About 9 percent of the central Indiana corn is planted, with only 3 percent in southern counties.

Statewide, 2 percent of the soybean acreage is planted. By May 10 last year, 65 percent of the soybean crop was planted.

It is too early to predict how the slow planting pace will affect farm incomes, said Chris Hurt, Extension agricultural economist. Based on current commodity market activity, it might be wise for farmers to consider shifting corn acres to soybeans, he said.

"We continue to see soybeans look quite favorable, in terms of economic returns," Hurt said. "So the first thing we have to say is just because corn is not getting planted in what many would say is the optimum time window, there still is a very good planting alternative in very late May and on into June.

"In fact, our budgets, with a normal yield scenario, expect soybeans to do as well, or better, in terms of economic returns than what corn would do this year."

Earlier this spring, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated Indiana farmers would plant 6 million acres of corn and 5.4 million acres of soybeans. With wet weather keeping them out of fields, Hurt predicted farmers may move as many as 300,000 corn acres to soybeans. A similar shift occurred in 1996, he said.

Acreage shifts also are expected in other Midwest farm states, as rainy weather patterns begin to envelop states to Indiana's west. Farmers could switch from corn to soybeans on 1 million acres nationwide, Hurt said.

Until Monday's Indiana crop progress report, commodities markets were unconcerned about planting delays. Not any longer. Corn prices rose 5 cents in Tuesday's (5/7) trading, Hurt said.

Ideally, farmers would be finishing their corn planting this week, said Bob Nielsen, Extension corn specialist. However, he cautioned against assuming lost planting days already mean lower yields. Many factors, including weather, determine crop production, he said.

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday May 12, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2002 thru May 12, 2002			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_AP_I	78	41	58	+1	3.02	4		8.47	+3.01	19	251	+75
Wanatah	78	40	57	+2	3.09	5	59	8.71	+3.46	20	207	+62
Wheatfield	79	41	58	+2	2.75	5		7.13	+2.01	19	240	+82
Winamac	77	40	58	+0	2.30	6	58	7.19	+2.16	22	225	+35
North Central(2)												
Chalmers_5W	79	40	59	+0	2.21	5		6.70	+1.51	22	237	+7
Plymouth	78	43	57	-2	3.66	5		8.78	+3.44	22	210	+7
South_Bend	78	41	57	+0	3.46	3		6.95	+1.89	20	229	+67
Young_America	78	41	61	+4	1.59	5		6.62	+1.71	18	272	+88
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	76	39	56	+0	2.64	5	55	8.33	+3.37	20	208	+64
Fort_Wayne	76	42	59	+2	1.56	5		5.92	+1.22	18	276	+103
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	78	37	63	+4	3.86	6		10.19	+4.67	18	291	+34
Perrysville	77	43	62	+4	3.94	6	62	9.42	+3.99	20	292	+74
Terre_Haute_AFB	79	40	65	+5	6.00	6		11.78	+6.12	20	387	+131
W_Lafayette_6NW	78	41	61	+3	2.88	6	63	8.56	+3.29	21	274	+84
Central (5)												
Brookville	80	42	63	+5	3.00	3		10.24	+4.60	16	341	+145
Eagle_Creek_AP	78	41	65	+5	2.24	4		8.30	+3.04	18	349	+104
Greenfield	77	41	63	+4	2.23	4		8.79	+3.03	21	312	+101
Indianapolis_AP	79	41	65	+6	3.09	4		9.03	+3.77	16	385	+140
Indianapolis_SE	77	40	63	+4	3.87	5		10.01	+4.50	16	318	+89
Tipton_Ag	76	41	61	+4	1.28	5	61	6.35	+0.91	21	257	+94
East Central (6)												
Farmland	76	44	62	+6	1.47	5	58	7.34	+2.33	23	275	+119
New_Castle	75	40	59	+2	1.79	5		8.12	+2.29	17	230	+69
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	83	50	69	+6	1.90	5		10.94	+5.06	19	525	+165
Freelandville	81	47	65	+5	4.59	5		10.23	+4.42	17	390	+113
Shoals	80	43	64	+4	4.44	5		10.00	+3.89	17	363	+92
Stendal	83	47	66	+4	3.44	4		12.19	+5.74	17	449	+136
Vincennes_5NE	84	45	67	+6	4.56	5	63	10.70	+4.89	15	438	+161
South Central(8)												
Spencer_Ag	79	41	62	+4	3.18	6		10.63	+4.76	22	303	+79
Tell_City	87	51	69	+7	1.88	3		10.33	+3.60	14	539	+211
Southeast (9)												
Milan_5NE	79	40	60	+2	3.57	5		12.33	+6.69	22	281	+85
Scottsburg	83	43	65	+4	3.89	4		11.48	+5.54	19	381	+100

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

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

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

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2002: 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.

Lost Planting Days Not Time to Panic, Specialists Say (Continued)

"We often talk about the optimum planting window for corn. We generally say that window begins toward the end of April and it closes just about now, around May 10," Nielsen said.

"After May 10 is when we start figuring in some rules of thumb for yield losses because of that delayed planting. From about May 10 forward we begin losing between 1 and 2 bushels per acre per day. So you can imagine that begins to add up pretty quickly. We're looking at a lot of ground that may not get planted until closer to the end of the month, and that's roughly 20-some days from now. You're starting to look at some serious yield losses."

But, "If Mother Nature would shape up, we still could end up with some good yields," Nielsen said.

Farmers also need not trade in their conventional corn hybrids for earlier-maturing varieties yet, Nielsen said. They might consider the faster-maturing hybrids if planting is postponed to early June.

Nielsen encouraged producers to make planting corn their first priority as fields dry. Nitrogen fertilizer may be applied to crops later, after plants emerge, he said. Depending on weed growth, farmers may be forced to apply herbicides before planting, he said.

The latest corn should be planted is mid-June, Nielsen said.

Soybean planting is just beginning to enter its optimum period, said Ellsworth Christmas, Extension soybean

specialist. The best period runs from about May 5 to May 20, he said.

In fact, the earlier soybeans go in the ground, the greater potential for problems, Christmas said.

"You look at the growth and development of the soybean plant and you don't need that plant out there from early to mid-April through mid-May," he said. "You get just as good a yield or better, in some instances, in planting in mid-May than you do in mid-April. The reason is because of disease problems associated with cool, damp soils."

Writer: Steve Leer, 765-494-8415, sleer@purdue.edu

Sources: Ralph Gann, (765) 494-8371, rgann@nass.usda.gov

Chris Hurt, (765) 494-4273, hurtc@purdue.edu

Bob Nielsen, (765) 494-4802, rnielsen@purdue.edu

Ellsworth Christmas, (765) 494-6373, echristmas@purdue.edu

Ag Communications: (765) 494-2722; Beth Forbes, bforbes@aes.purdue.edu; <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/AgComm/public/agnews/>

Purdue News Service: (765) 494-2096; purduenews@purdue.edu

The INDIANA CROP WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN 0442-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite B105, West Lafayette IN 47906-4145. 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, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite B105, West Lafayette IN 47906-4145.