



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural
Statistics Service

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 19

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Saturated field conditions prevented most farmers from planting corn and soybeans, along with other field activities. However, some fieldwork took place in scattered fields, mostly in the northern regions of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Many areas received heavy rainfall during the week and flooding occurred in river bottom areas. Ponding is a major problem in many fields around the state. Corn planting is one day behind the **record** slow pace established in 1961. Farmers are very concerned with the delayed planting. Cool temperatures and poor drying conditions prevailed during most of the week with record cold temperatures and frost occurring in some areas during the weekend.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There was 0.4 **day suitable for fieldwork**. Thirteen percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 100 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 22 percent of the corn acreage is planted in the north, 9 percent in the central regions and 3 percent in the south. Seven percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared with 92 percent a year earlier. Emerged corn is yellow in color and emergence of early planted corn and soybean fields remains slow. Four percent of the intended **soybean** acreage is planted compared with 92 percent a year ago and 63 percent for the average. Two percent of the soybean acreage has **emerged** compared with 64 percent a year earlier.

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

Fifty percent of the winter wheat is **headed** compared with 83 percent last year and 66 percent for the average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 57 percent good to excellent, below the 62 percent last week and below the 64 percent a year ago at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 21 percent excellent, 58 percent good, 18 percent fair, 2 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. Pastures are lush and green. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Alfalfa Weevil remain active in some fields. Spring calving continued.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Corn Planted	13	11	100	87
Corn Emerged	7	4	92	NA
Soybeans Planted	4	3	92	63
Soybeans Emerged	2	1	64	NA
Winter Wheat Headed	50	39	83	66

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	2	18	58	21
Winter Wheat 2002	2	8	33	47	10
Winter Wheat 2001	3	10	23	55	9

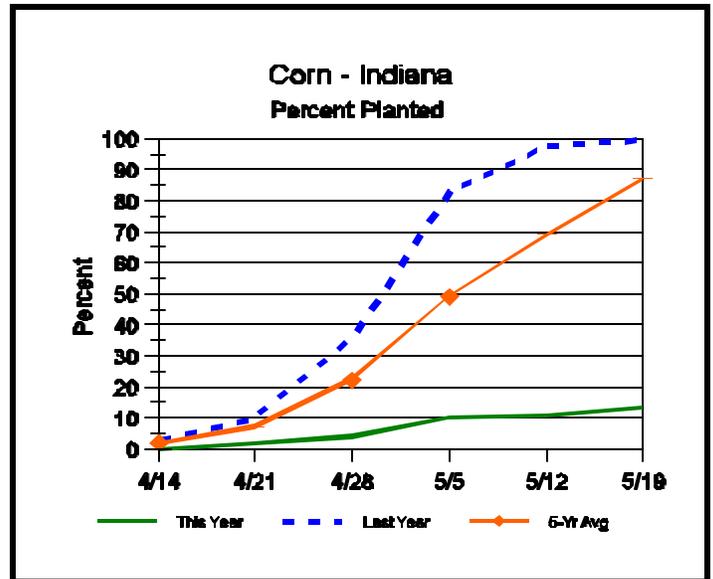
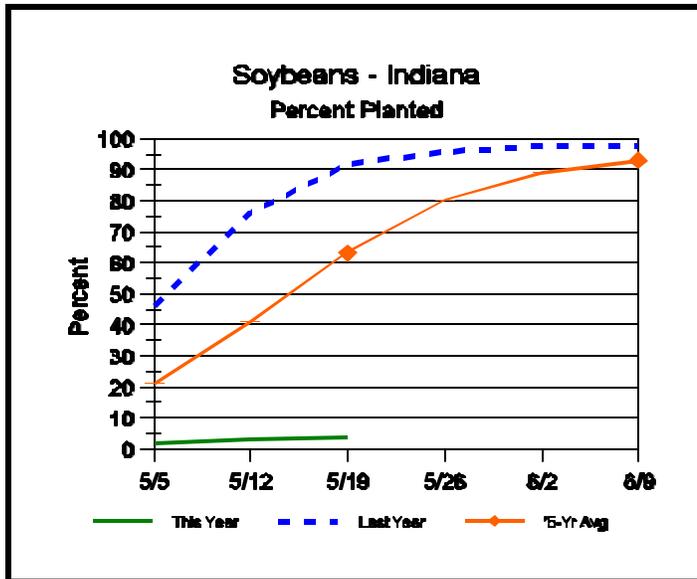
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	13
Short	0	0	18
Adequate	15	13	58
Surplus	85	87	11
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	16
Short	0	0	31
Adequate	25	27	49
Surplus	75	73	4
Days Suitable	0.4	1.0	4.3

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Minimizing Compaction in a Wet Spring

As the calendar days in May pass with very little of the corn or soybeans planted in Indiana, the temptation mounts to do tillage or planting operations when soil conditions aren't fit. The planting that has been completed thus far has been on fields that dried faster earlier, so the waiting now becomes even more challenging. Does the recommendation for acceptable soil moistures for field operations change between late April and mid-May or late May? In short, the answer is "No". Here are ten guidelines on how to avoid or minimize soil compaction in a wet spring.

1. The risk of yield loss resulting from compaction at the time of tillage or planting does not decline with time in spring. Crop yield loss after soil compaction is most likely when hot and dry weather conditions add to rooting stresses encountered in the first 60 days after planting. The latter weather conditions are more likely after late versus early planting. Regular rains of 1 inch per week from June to August would markedly help corn and soybean response to compaction at planting, but it is not good management to presume such a rainfall distribution will follow an untimely field operation this month.
2. Even in mid-May, potential yield loss from compaction is still greater than that from delayed planting. Waiting two more days for that tillage or planting operation will reduce corn yields by 3% or less, whereas potential yield losses from spring compaction could be as high as 40%.
3. The easiest test to determine soil suitability for tillage is still the "roll" test. Take soil from the one-inch zone around the intended depth of tillage (or seeding) and roll it carefully back and forth between the palms of your

hands. If you can form a 4-inch long "worm" of soil with a diameter of 1/8 inch, the decision should be to wait for additional drying.

4. Never do two secondary tillage passes under marginal soil moisture conditions. The second pass will only add to the compaction load from the tractor and the implement. For those that choose tillage (instead of no-till or stale seedbed planting), wait just long enough after that operation to have friable conditions in the seedbed zone and then plant. Use harrows or other firming devices behind field cultivators to reduce clod size in the first pass.
5. Avoid the use of tandem disks where possible because of the additional compaction load (pressure) below disk blades, compared to that under the cultivator sweeps. Creating "tillage pans" (layers of increased soil density just below the depth of tillage) restricts both root growth (and water drainage if the rains should continue).
6. Keep the tillage depth as shallow as possible. Soil moisture levels (and potential for soil smearing) increase rapidly with depth after periods of heavy rain when drying soil below field capacity is predominantly by evaporation drying from the surface. There is no inherent yield gain for tillage any deeper than an average of 3 inches.
7. Consider limiting planting and tillage operations to those portions of the fields where soil conditions are "acceptable". Come back and plant those wetter areas later. Yield reductions associated with "mudding" the crop in are still much higher than those resulting from waiting on the wet areas for an additional week.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday May 19, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation					
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2002 thru May 19, 2002					
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F		
							Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN		
Northwest (1)													
Valparaiso_AP_I	73	35	51	-10	1.01	2		9.48	+3.18	21	278	+27	
Wanatah	74	32	49	-10	1.11	3	58	9.82	+3.79	23	225	+12	
Wheatfield	74	33	51	-10	0.92	3		8.05	+2.16	22	264	+33	
Winamac	73	32	50	-12	1.18	4	56	8.37	+2.57	26	244	-25	
North Central(2)													
Chalmers_5W	75	34	52	-11	1.13	4		7.83	+1.75	26	262	-54	
Plymouth	73	31	49	-13	1.00	3		9.78	+3.60	25	226	-59	
South_Bend	73	32	50	-10	0.94	5		7.89	+2.13	25	252	+18	
Young_America	73	35	52	-9	0.87	4		7.49	+1.74	22	302	+39	
Northeast (3)													
Columbia_City	71	28	50	-10	0.64	3	53	8.97	+3.24	23	231	+18	
Fort_Wayne	72	30	52	-9	1.18	4		7.10	+1.63	22	304	+56	
West Central (4)													
Greencastle	75	29	52	-12	2.77	4		12.96	+6.32	22	317	-34	
Perrysville	73	34	53	-9	3.19	4	59	12.61	+6.27	24	327	+24	
Terre_Haute_AFB	75	33	54	-9	8.42	5		20.20	+13.49	25	430	+81	
W_Lafayette_6NW	74	33	53	-9	3.25	3	56	11.81	+5.65	24	308	+39	
Central (5)													
Brookville	78	31	56	-6	2.82	4		13.06	+6.31	20	388	+113	
Eagle_Creek_AP	75	35	54	-9	2.89	4		11.19	+5.02	22	390	+52	
Greenfield	75	31	52	-10	3.55	6		12.34	+5.60	27	345	+45	
Indianapolis_AP	75	32	54	-10	2.62	4		11.65	+5.48	20	427	+89	
Indianapolis_SE	74	31	53	-11	2.94	3		12.95	+6.40	19	353	+33	
Tipton_Ag	74	33	53	-8	3.83	4	59	10.18	+3.90	25	289	+51	
East Central (6)													
Farmland	75	28	51	-9	2.93	5	54	10.27	+4.42	28	304	+75	
New_Castle	74	30	50	-11	3.74	4		11.86	+5.05	21	253	+17	
Southwest (7)													
Evansville	81	37	59	-7	2.77	4		13.71	+6.71	23	592	+122	
Freelandville	78	37	56	-8	3.81	4		14.04	+7.04	21	439	+66	
Shoals	80	35	56	-7	5.07	4		15.07	+7.70	21	412	+50	
Stendal	81	37	58	-7	3.87	4		16.06	+8.42	21	509	+93	
Vincennes_5NE	80	36	56	-8	4.61	4	60	15.31	+8.31	19	481	+108	
South Central(8)													
Spencer_Ag	75	32	53	-9	4.40	4		15.03	+8.04	26	338	+30	
Tell_City	83	41	62	-3	3.13	4		13.46	+5.63	18	626	+194	
Southeast (9)													
Milan_5NE	77	29	55	-7	3.73	4		16.06	+9.31	26	325	+50	
Scottsburg	80	31	56	-9	3.54	4		15.02	+8.03	23	429	+52	

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.

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Minimizing Compaction in a Wet Spring (Continued)

8. Try to minimize the compaction from the tractor itself. Use a tractor with a lower axle load if it is capable of doing the field operation. Adjust inflation pressure to as low as is appropriate for the tire type. Don't feel compelled to leave duals or even triple tire combinations on the tractor if they are not providing a clear benefit in flotation or in enabling an overall reduction in depth of secondary tillage (e.g. to loosen soil in the wheel tracks). In spring tillage operations, compaction from tractor wheel tracks is often the worst offender in restricting subsequent root elongation.

9. Flexibility surrounding the margins of "acceptable" soil moisture ranges for tillage and planting operations is dependent on overall soil organic matter levels and crop rotation history. Fields with high organic matter and good soil structural stability are less likely to experience yield loss from tillage or planting operations under less-than-optimum conditions. Fields with a history dominated by soybeans or other low residue producing crops are those that are most susceptible to crop yield loss associated with

compaction. Fields with a recent history dominated by perennial forages, grain corn, cover crops and (or) manure are less susceptible to compaction damage even when tillage occurs at similar soil moisture contents.

10. In delayed planting situations, pre-plant ammonia application should be avoided for compaction reasons as well as for the extra time requirement before corn planting. Aside from the wheel-track compaction and smearing alongside the anhydrous knives, increased concentration of ammonia in the knife zone may enhance the risk of injury to corn plants when the soil dries.

In summary, the advancing calendar is generally not sufficient justification to work soils that are too wet, or to "mud" the crop in. Minimizing compaction is just as important in mid-May as it was in late April. Patience is a necessity!

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