



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural
Statistics Service

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers had near perfect conditions to harvest corn and soybeans during most of the week, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Rain temporarily halted field activities in some areas during the weekend. Corn harvest is 4 days behind average, but 3 days ahead of last year. Soybean harvest is on par with average and 12 days ahead of last year. Many farmers completed harvest of their soybean fields during the week. Reporters indicate yields continue to be highly variable in both corn and soybean fields. Fall tillage took place in many fields during the week. Seeding winter wheat, chopping corn stalks and spreading fertilizer were also major activities.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were **5.8 days suitable for fieldwork**. Virtually all of the corn crop is **mature**. Forty-four percent of the corn acreage is **harvested** compared with 41 percent last year and 52 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 35 percent of the corn acreage is harvested in the north, 41 percent in the central regions and 67 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging 19 percent.

Virtually all of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves**. Ninety-eight percent of the soybean acreage is **mature** compared with 99 percent last year and 99 percent for the average. Seventy-eight percent of the soybean acreage is **harvested** compared with 59 percent last year and 78 percent for the average. By area, 83 percent of the soybean acreage is harvested in the north, 82 percent in the central regions and 59 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging 12.0 percent.

Seventy-four percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is seeded compared with 54 percent last year and 69 percent for the average. By area, 85 percent of the winter wheat acreage is seeded in the north, 83 percent in the central regions and 59 percent in the south. Thirty-nine percent of the winter wheat acreage has **emerged** compared with 28 percent last year and 35 percent for the average. Stripping of **tobacco** is underway on some southern farms.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 1 percent excellent, 18 percent good, 37 percent fair, 25 percent poor and 19 percent very poor. Pastures continue to improve in some areas of the state. Livestock remain in mostly good condition. Weaning of calves is taking place on some livestock farms.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
				Percent
Corn Harvested	44	31	41	52
Soybeans Mature	98	90	99	99
Soybeans Harvested	78	58	59	78
Winter Wheat Planted	74	49	54	69
Winter Wheat Emerged	39	23	28	35

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel- lent
					Percent
Pasture	19	25	37	18	1

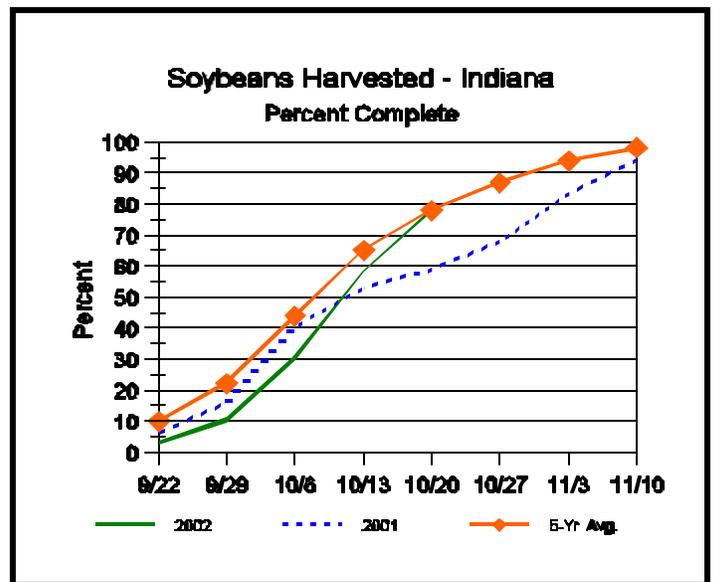
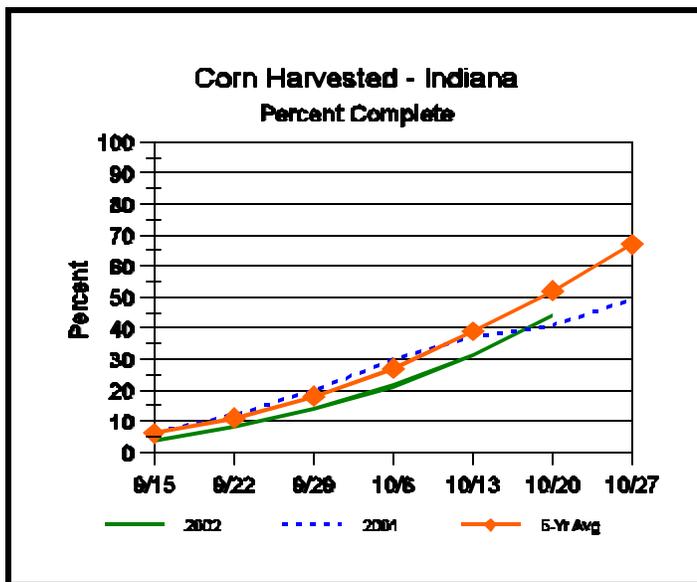
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
			Percent
Topsoil			
Very Short	6	11	0
Short	28	26	2
Adequate	63	59	39
Surplus	3	4	59
Subsoil			
Very Short	19	24	2
Short	35	36	9
Adequate	45	39	58
Surplus	1	1	31
Days Suitable	5.8	5.6	1.8

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Online Tool Cuts Through Farm Bill's Base Acre, Yield Options

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Receiving the full benefit of the 2002 Farm Bill comes down to a farmer's decision-making ability on base acres and program yields, and a Web-based spreadsheet calculator developed by a Purdue University agricultural economist can help.

The free spreadsheet is located on the web at: <http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/ext/policy.asp>.

"The spreadsheet is designed to determine the best option for updating base acres and yields for a farm by trying to maximize the amount of money a farmer will receive over the life of the farm bill," said Allan Gray, the Purdue ag economist who developed the calculator.

The six-year farm bill runs through 2007. It offers producers a handful of possible base acre/program yield choices, each affecting the support payment amounts they'll receive from the government. Purdue's online spreadsheet projects future support payments from data a farmer enters.

"We calculate the estimated payments every year through 2007 from the farmer's inputs," Gray said. "Those include what their current base acres, or contract acres, are for corn and wheat, what his current farm program yields are for corn and wheat, the historical planted acres from 1998 to 2001 for corn, soybeans and wheat, and the yields on each of those in those years."

The analysis doesn't stop there, Gray said.

"What's unique about our spreadsheet is it takes 500 possible combinations of corn, soybean and wheat prices for 2002 to 2007," he said. "Each time we take one of those combinations, we figure out which option

would be best, and then provide that to the farmer in a printable final report."

Farmers will need to enter about 15 acreage-and yield-related numbers to perform the calculations. They'll also need Excel software on their computers to run the spreadsheet program.

All this number crunching is necessary because the new farm bill makes major changes in federal agriculture programs. The legislation adds a new support payment — a counter-cyclical payment — to the traditional direct payments and marketing loans. It also establishes soybeans as a program crop and, for the first time in years, allows farmers to update base acres and program yields.

Farmers can receive counter-cyclical payments on qualified crops when market prices fall below a government-set target price. Target prices vary from crop to crop.

"That's one of a couple of unique things that happened with the 2002 Farm Bill," Gray said. "Another is farmers are now allowed to have base acres on soybeans. Throughout the history of farm programs going back to 1933, soybeans have never had equivalent treatment to corn."

In addition, "farmers are allowed to update their base acreages and update their yields, if they choose to do so, based on their average planting history and yields from 1998 to 2001," Gray said.

Farmers have not been permitted to adjust base acres

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday October 20, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2002 thru October 20, 2002				
	Hi	Lo	Avq	DFN	Total	Days		Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
							Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	67	27	44	-10	0.49	2		19.35	-4.39	73	3351	+174
Valparaiso_AP_I	59	28	44	-10	0.26	2		19.38	-6.76	72	3359	+453
Wanatah	61	26	43	-9	0.34	4	54	19.90	-5.17	79	3162	+402
Wheatfield	64	27	43	-9	0.48	2		24.14	-0.07	60	3225	+409
Winamac	64	28	43	-9	0.76	2	48	22.10	-2.03	71	3277	+372
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	64	28	43	-11	0.38	2		20.28	-4.64	75	3142	+84
South_Bend	62	29	44	-9	0.21	2		17.42	-6.84	70	3338	+472
Young_America	65	28	45	-7	0.44	2		23.31	-0.17	64	3392	+389
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	63	27	42	-10	0.39	1	50	20.70	-2.76	67	3087	+354
Fort_Wayne	62	28	45	-8	0.36	1		21.80	+0.30	63	3362	+351
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	65	27	44	-11	0.76	1		31.90	+4.85	68	3282	-130
Perrysville	69	26	45	-9	1.15	1	57	30.23	+5.02	67	3467	+301
Spencer_Ag	65	30	46	-7	0.72	1		33.50	+6.47	69	3540	+353
Terre_Haute_AFB	67	28	47	-8	0.32	1		34.54	+9.08	67	3773	+388
W_Lafayette_6NW	67	25	45	-8	0.30	2	54	26.74	+2.92	76	3421	+423
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	65	31	48	-8	0.53	1		25.52	+1.71	70	3783	+432
Greenfield	64	29	46	-8	0.45	1		33.22	+7.14	70	3555	+333
Indianapolis_AP	65	33	48	-7	0.41	1		24.09	+0.28	63	3924	+573
Indianapolis_SE	64	27	46	-9	0.46	1		28.78	+4.38	61	3554	+208
Tipton_Ag	65	28	44	-8	0.69	1	58	23.97	-0.52	67	3272	+371
East Central (6)												
Farmland	65	27	44	-8	0.80	1	49	22.03	-1.48	66	3367	+539
New_Castle	61	27	43	-9	0.48	2		24.90	-0.11	59	3061	+160
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	69	34	52	-6	0.43	2		26.22	+2.04	57	4412	+514
Freelandville	66	34	48	-8	1.04	2		29.92	+4.79	57	3980	+481
Shoals	66	33	48	-7	0.89	2		27.64	+0.49	55	3848	+456
Stendal	68	34	49	-7	0.33	2		29.89	+3.02	57	4165	+501
Vincennes_5NE	67	34	49	-7	0.66	2	56	33.80	+8.67	68	4082	+583
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	64	36	50	-6	0.29	2		30.27	+2.96	64	3954	+586
Oolitic	65	27	46	-8	0.97	2	57	30.52	+4.39	68	3738	+508
Tell_City	69	36	52	-6	0.47	2		30.28	+2.82	52	4485	+708
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	65	33	47	-6	0.38	2		25.54	+0.37	63	3842	+781
Milan_5NE	64	33	47	-7	0.52	3		33.29	+8.12	75	3461	+400
Scottsburg	65	30	47	-8	0.30	2		31.30	+5.42	64	3772	+289

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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Online Tool Cuts Through Farm Bill's Base Acre, Yield Options (Continued)

up or down since 1990. Base acres are those acres of a particular crop a farmer counts toward support payments. Program yields represent the average crop production per acre.

"The rules have changed such that there are now five options available to the producer for updating their base acreages and yields," Gray said.

The five options include:

- Option No. 1 — Making no changes to existing base acres and program yields.
- Option No. 2 — Adding soybean base acres to current base acreage.
- Option No. 3 — Maximizing soybean base acres by trading other crops' base acres.
- Option No. 4 — Updating base acres using 1998-2001 historical planted acres and updating program yields for counter-cyclical payments.
- Option No. 5 — Trading selected base acres for additional soybean acres.

Farmers with 100 percent corn bases are likely to choose the first option, because corn base acres are worth more in support payments than other program crops, Gray said. Producers with significant soybean acreage could take advantage of options No. 2 and 4, while farmers with historical base in oats and soybeans could increase their support levels by selecting option No. 5. The fourth option is the only one permitting farmers to update their base acres and program yields for counter-cyclical payments.

"There are three viable options in Indiana, in my opinion: option 1, option 2 and option 4," Gray said. "The one that's probably going to be chosen more often than not is option 4 — updating your base acres

based on your historical planted acreage.

"In the state of Indiana and, particularly, across the Corn Belt, we've had four years — 1998 through 2001 — of outstanding crops that were above trend. Because of that, updating yields for counter-cyclical payments can give farmers a pretty substantial boost in yields, both for corn and soybeans. Since you can't update yields under any other option, option No. 4 is pretty appealing to a farmer."

Farmers have until April 1 to select base acre and yield options and report them to their local office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. The sign-up period for the 2002 and 2003 direct payment and counter-cyclical payment programs ends June 2.

For more information about the Purdue spreadsheet, contact a county office of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. County offices also have the spreadsheet program on their computers, should farmers not have access to a computer or have Excel on their hard drives.

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Related Web site:

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