Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 20

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Many farmers were monitoring their fields last week assessing the damage from the recent ponding and flooding along river bottom fields, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Some areas received rain, wind damage and thunderstorms again during the week. Full damage to major crops is still unknown, but heavy losses exist in some fields. Condition of major crops varies significantly from field to field and within fields because of the weather and insect related problems. Many corn fields are entering into the critical period of pollination and setting of pods is underway in some early planted soybean fields. Winter wheat harvest along with cutting and baling of hay has been delayed on some farms recently.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.2 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Thirty-five percent of the corn acreage has **silked** compared with 25 percent last year and 61 percent for the 5-year average. Two percent of the corn acreage has reached the **dough** stage compared with 2 percent last year and 7 percent for the average. Growth and development of corn plants continue to advance. Corn **condition** declined from last week and is rated 51 percent good to excellent compared with 36 percent last year at this time.

Thirty-six percent of the soybean acreage is **blooming** compared with 35 percent last year and 63 percent for the average. Five percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared with 8 percent last year and 18 percent for the average. Soybean **condition** also declined and is rated 49 percent good to excellent compared with 39 percent last year at this time.

Winter wheat **harvest** is 88 percent complete compared with 98 percent last year and 99 percent for the average. By area, 73 percent of the wheat acreage is harvested in the north, 85 percent in the central region and 99 percent in the south.

Major activities during the week were cleaning up from the water damage, spraying, attending county fairs, repairing equipment, certifying crops at FSA offices, moving grain to market, mowing and baling hay and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 12 percent excellent, 54 percent good, 26 percent fair, 6 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Second cutting of **alfalfa** hay is 61 percent complete compared with 71 percent last year and 83 percent for average. Livestock are in mostly good condition, but under some stress from standing water, heat and humid weather.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Silked	35	13	25	61
Corn In Dough	2	0	2	7
Soybeans Blooming	36	23	35	63
Soybeans Setting Pods	5	1	8	18
Winter Wheat Harvested	88	61	98	99
Alfalfa Second Cutting	61	32	71	83

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Corn	6	14	29	41	10
Soybean	6	13	32	41	8
Pasture	2	6	26	54	12

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	0	28
Short	6	5	44
Adequate	56	42	27
Surplus	37	53	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	2	20
Short	8	6	39
Adequate	62	56	40
Surplus	29	36	1
Days Suitable	4.2	2.2	6.5

CONTACT INFORMATION

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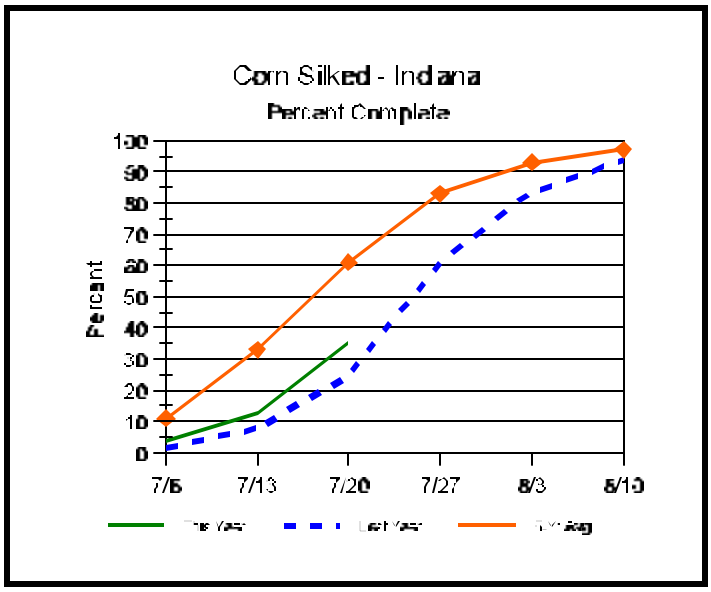
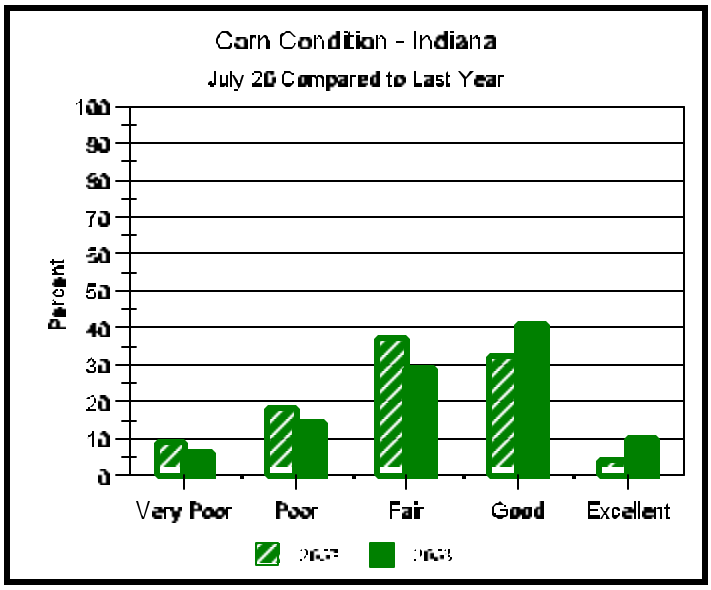
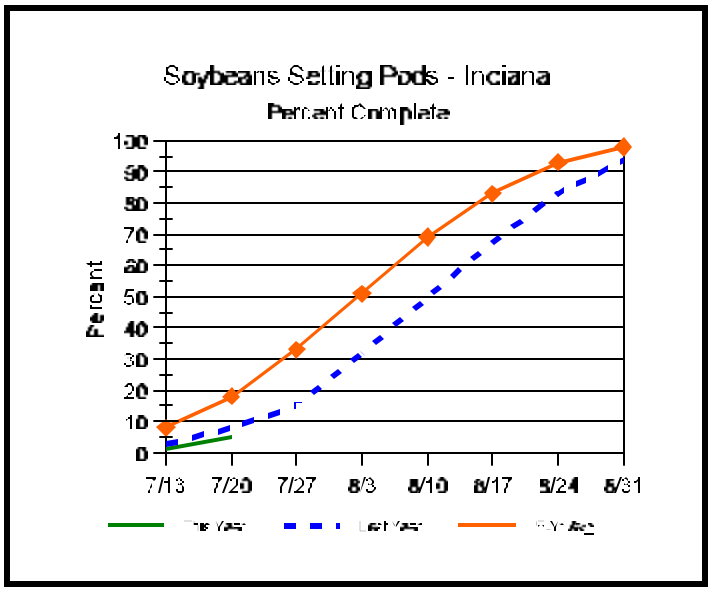
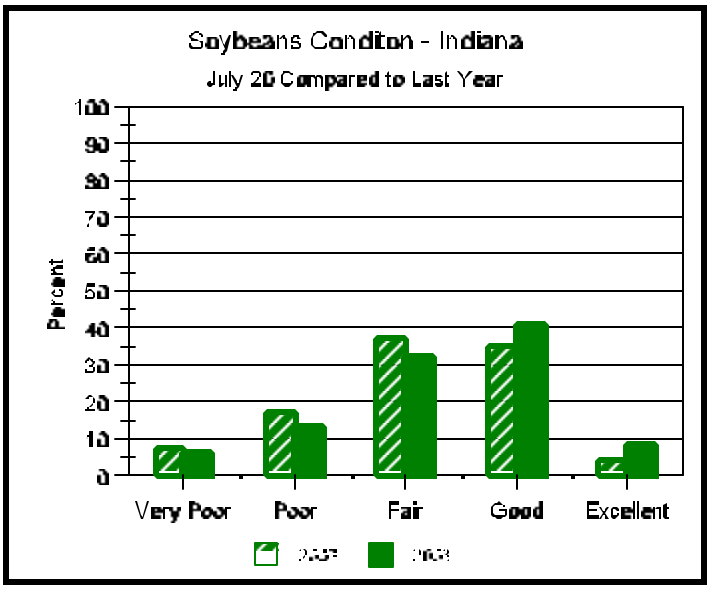
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm

Crop Progress









Other Agricultural Comments And News

Rootworm Insecticide Failure?

- Recent rains and winds have lodged corn
- Field should be evaluated for rootworm damage
- Plants with severe pruning to nodal roots lodge easily
- Several possible variables exist for poor insecticide performance

Tremendous storms have clobbered central and northern Indiana this past week. Saturated, or flooded soils have provided little foothold for corn roots when tested by high winds. Inspections of some lodged areas of these fields have revealed rootworm damage where a full rate of insecticide was used at planting. Should rootworm insecticides, if applied correctly, prevent root damage and subsequent plant lodging? Is this rootworm insecticide failure?

Corn plants that have lodged should be dug, not pulled, washed and then inspected for root feeding scars. Pay particular attention to the nodes of roots just below and above the soil surface. Rootworm insecticides are designed to protect the roots in approximately a 7-inch band. Nodal and brace roots in this zone are critical for keeping the plant upright. If a complete nodal ring of roots or more is destroyed by rootworms, then plant lodging is likely.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday July 20, 2003

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2003 thru July 20, 2003				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	88	56	72	-3	1.37	2	75	24.87	+11.10	44	1470	-147
Valparaiso_AP_I	85	56	71	-3	1.37	3		17.50	+2.80	44	1331	-109
Wanatah	85	51	69	-5	1.41	5	77	18.05	+3.87	48	1242	-133
Wheatfield	86	53	71	-3	2.01	3		22.47	+8.56	44	1373	-42
Winamac	84	55	71	-3	0.93	2	73	20.62	+6.69	45	1367	-109
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	84	53	69	-6	0.26	2		16.18	+1.58	42	1290	-249
South_Bend	84	53	71	-3	0.10	3		14.01	+0.36	44	1356	-67
Young_America	86	58	72	-3	1.43	2		20.03	+6.65	45	1479	-26
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	84	53	70	-3	0.08	1	74	16.39	+2.65	50	1321	-35
Fort_Wayne	85	55	71	-4	0.08	1		20.51	+7.86	42	1354	-141
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	84	56	71	-6	1.77	2		19.72	+4.16	47	1419	-295
Perrysville	87	58	73	-2	1.79	2	74	16.36	+1.31	41	1617	+12
Spencer_Ag	86	60	74	-2	1.44	4		18.24	+2.23	49	1588	-14
Terre_Haute_AFB	87	60	74	-3	1.66	3		14.76	-0.38	37	1713	+1
W_Lafayette_6NW	85	58	72	-3	0.45	1	76	18.68	+4.85	49	1529	+20
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	84	61	73	-3	0.61	2		16.82	+2.75	39	1622	-73
Greenfield	84	53	71	-5	0.56	3		21.08	+5.81	50	1519	-93
Indianapolis_AP	84	62	74	-3	1.11	2		18.69	+4.62	42	1648	-47
Indianapolis_SE	84	59	72	-4	0.80	2		15.94	+1.40	42	1540	-132
Tipton_Ag	84	56	70	-4	0.95	3	78	23.93	+10.03	44	1365	-93
East Central (6)												
Farmland	89	56	71	-3	0.06	2	72	19.26	+5.32	42	1444	+30
New_Castle	81	54	68	-7	0.26	2		15.26	+0.03	41	1243	-205
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	90	64	77	-3	0.41	2		16.72	+1.82	45	1910	-96
Freelandville	87	64	75	-2	0.65	3		19.48	+4.11	42	1764	-13
Shoals	87	60	74	-2	1.51	3		21.37	+4.81	45	1717	+15
Stendal	89	64	76	-2	0.79	3		17.27	+0.72	37	1827	-44
Vincennes_5NE	91	59	76	-2	0.46	3	75	18.99	+3.62	50	1802	+25
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	87	62	75	-1	0.93	4		17.72	+0.99	53	1734	+34
Oolitic	86	59	74	-2	0.75	3	75	19.79	+4.10	50	1629	+11
Tell_City	90	65	78	+0	0.35	2		17.44	+0.74	37	2031	+139
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	87	56	73	-2	0.04	1		18.68	+3.67	46	1629	+111
Milan_5NE	85	58	72	-3	0.97	3		20.91	+5.90	61	1581	+63
Scottsburg	85	57	72	-5	0.63	2		18.23	+2.75	48	1648	-112

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.

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.

Rootworm Insecticide Failure? (Continued)

We have always said that at best, rootworm insecticides will control 80% of the rootworm larvae in the root zone. Because last year's rootworm beetles concentrated their egg laying in certain areas of the field (i.e., clumped distribution), it is reasonable to expect more surviving larvae in these areas. Therefore, even if the insecticide worked, lodging of plants in spots of a field is not unusual.

Certainly date of planting needs to be considered. Many cornfields were planted in central and northern Indiana before mid-April. Rootworm insecticides do not kill eggs (overwintering stage) and hatch did not occur until late May this year. Expecting an insecticide to remain at full strength for that duration, especially with this year's soil conditions, is unrealistic.

Wet soil conditions this spring resulting in the movement of the soil insecticide out of the zone of rootworm activity, may have also caused this situation to develop in some fields. It is not hard to imagine that excessive moisture may have either physically moved the insecticide off target with erosion or caused deeper movement into the soil. Other factors such as rapid microbial degradation of insecticides or the sun's UV rays degrading insecticide exposed on the surface of the soil may add to the problem.

The items above are valid reasons why an insecticide may not work to expectations. However, there are no disclaimers on product labels addressing these variables as reasons for poor product performance. This article also contains color pictures, which can be viewed at: http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/p&c/P&C2003/P&C17_2003.pdf, pages, 1 & 2.

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