Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 3

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers had a good week for field activities in most areas of the state. Fields continued to dry out, but wet spots are still evident. Thunderstorms, with some areas receiving heavy amounts of rain, occurred across portions of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Most farmers have now completed harvesting of winter wheat. Second cutting of hay and forage crops made good progress during the week. Spraying for weeds and insects was a major field activity. For the second straight week, cooler than normal temperatures prevailed around the state. Growing degree days are behind normal in nearly all regions of the state thus far this year. Blue mold is showing up in some tobacco fields.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.0 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Eighty-two percent of the corn acreage has **silked** compared with 84 percent a year ago and 93 percent for the 5-year average. Seventeen percent of the corn acreage has reached the **dough** stage compared with 16 percent last year and 35 percent for the average. Corn **condition** improved from last week and is rated 59 percent good to excellent compared with 31 percent last year at this time.

Seventy-two percent of the soybean acreage is **blooming** compared with 75 percent last year and 88 percent for the average. Twenty-seven percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared with 32 percent last year and 51 percent for the average. Soybean **condition** also improved and is rated 58 percent good to excellent compared with 38 percent last year at this time.

Winter wheat **harvest** is 99 percent complete compared with 100 percent complete for both last year and the 5-year average. By area, 99 percent of the wheat acreage is harvested in the north, 100 percent in the central region and 100 percent in the south.

Major activities during the week were mowing and baling hay, spraying for weeds and insects, cleaning up and repairing equipment, certifying crops at FSA offices, moving grain to market, mowing lots and roadsides, cleaning out grain bins and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 11 percent excellent, 65 percent good, 19 percent fair, 4 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Second cutting of **alfalfa** hay is 88 percent complete compared with 94 percent last year and 97 percent for average. Cooler weather has reduced stress and helped keep livestock in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Silked	82	61	84	93
Corn In Dough	17	8	16	35
Soybeans Blooming	72	56	75	88
Soybeans Setting Pods	27	14	32	51
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	97	100	100
Alfalfa Second Cutting	88	74	94	97

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Corn	5	10	26	46	13
Soybean	5	9	28	47	11
Pasture	1	4	19	65	11

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	1	33
Short	4	5	43
Adequate	75	65	23
Surplus	20	29	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	26
Short	7	7	43
Adequate	78	66	31
Surplus	14	26	0
Days Suitable	5.0	4.5	6.5

CONTACT INFORMATION

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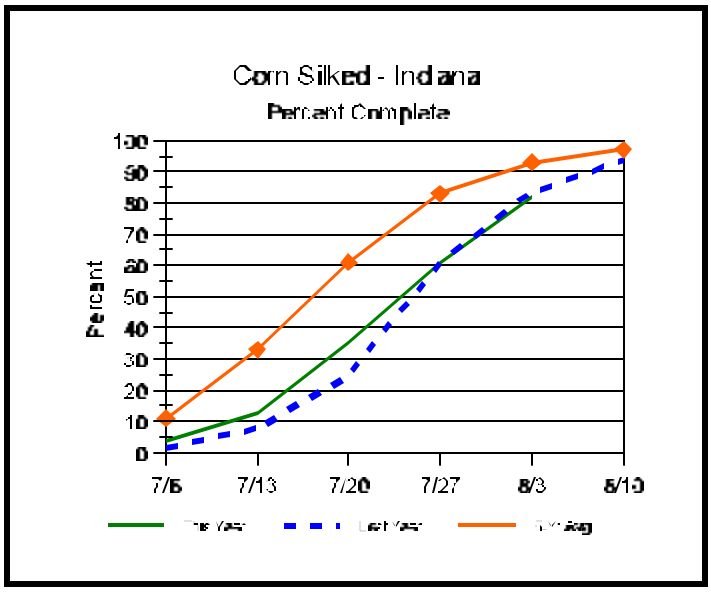
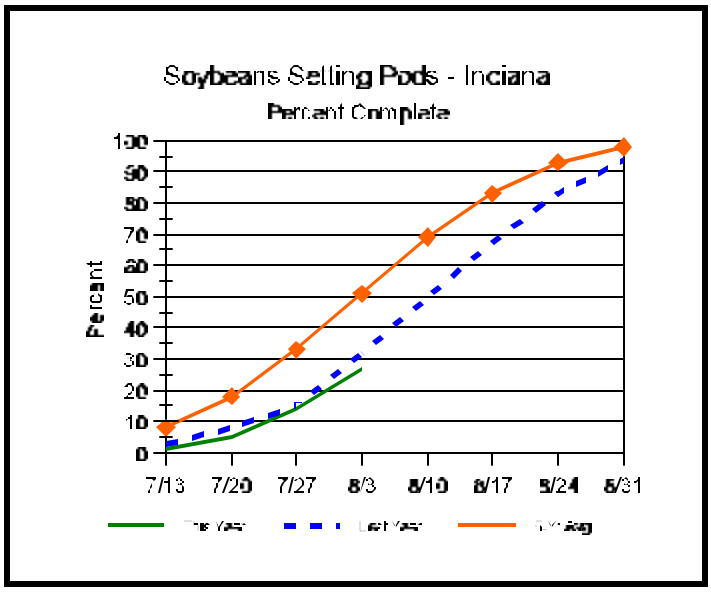
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Struggling Soybeans

- Weather deals Indiana soybeans near knockout blow

Indiana soybeans have suffered a beating at the hands of Mother Nature this spring and summer. It's no wonder, then, that the crop looks down for the count, said Ellsworth Christmas, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service soybean specialist.

Many soybean fields in central and northern Indiana that weren't washed away by floods are stunted and pale from multiple storms, standing water and fluctuating temperatures, Christmas said. In southern Indiana, excessive spring precipitation pushed back soybean planting, reducing yield potential, he said.

"Right now the big concerns are related to the color of the crop and the fact that it is not growing," Christmas said. "That's all related directly to waterlogged or saturated soils. Any time you have saturated soils the nodules are not producing adequate nitrogen for the plant.

"Couple this with the fact that we've had overcast days, and the plants were not producing a lot of photosynthates to send down to that root system to support the roots as well as the nodules. However, should the soils dry out and the nodules become either more active or re-established, then we'll see the plants start to darken in color and look quite normal."

For the moment, the crop continues to decline. As of Sunday (7/20), 49 percent of Hoosier soybean acres were rated "good" or "excellent," down 2 percent from one week earlier and off 8 percent since July 6, according to the Purdue-based Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service (IASS). The IASS rated 19 percent of acres "poor" or "very poor" on July 20, up 8 percent in two weeks.

Plant development also has slipped, the IASS reported. Thirty-six percent of the soybean acreage was blooming by July 20, up 1 percent from the same period in 2002 but well off the five-year average of 63 percent. Only 5 percent of soybean acres were setting pods by Sunday, compared with 18 percent for the five-year average.

Indiana farmers planted about 5.4 million acres of soybeans this year, down 7 percent from 2002.

Christmas said soilborne diseases could further damage an already fragile crop. Soybean fields in northern Indiana are especially vulnerable, he said.

"A couple of things we need to be on the lookout for are diseases that can be triggered by these weather conditions," he said. "One of those is Sudden Death Syndrome, particularly if those plants were under a lot of stress early and infection occurred. If we get rainy

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday August 3, 2003

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	April 1, 2003 thru August 3, 2003 Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	89	54	72	-2	0.45	3	75	26.12	+10.53	50	1770	-182
Valparaiso_AP_I	86	51	70	-3	1.04	5		20.03	+3.63	51	1618	-143
Wanatah	87	49	69	-3	1.10	3	76	20.48	+4.52	53	1515	-168
Wheatfield	87	54	71	-2	1.50	4		29.60	+14.01	50	1674	-56
Winamac	85	56	70	-3	0.53	3	75	22.98	+7.37	50	1651	-142
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	87	54	70	-4	1.55	3		18.32	+2.02	47	1569	-302
South_Bend	86	56	71	-2	0.73	3		17.16	+1.86	48	1651	-94
Young_America	86	57	71	-3	1.26	4		22.36	+7.30	51	1776	-58
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	86	56	71	-1	2.02	5		20.06	+4.73	58	1612	-53
Fort_Wayne	87	55	71	-4	1.45	3		23.95	+9.76	48	1647	-182
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	88	55	71	-6	0.33	3		20.91	+3.05	53	1704	-367
Perrysville	89	54	72	-2	0.46	3	74	17.90	+0.89	45	1921	-21
Spencer_Ag	89	58	72	-3	0.85	4		20.46	+2.20	57	1891	-56
Terre_Haute_AFB	89	57	72	-3	0.48	3		16.08	-1.17	42	2026	-42
W_Lafayette_6NW	87	53	71	-3	1.26	3	77	20.58	+4.93	53	1824	-10
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	86	60	73	-3	1.20	4		18.88	+2.82	47	1938	-111
Greenfield	87	57	72	-3	0.44	3		21.88	+4.21	55	1818	-139
Indianapolis_AP	88	62	74	-2	0.43	4		20.23	+4.17	49	1970	-79
Indianapolis_SE	86	59	72	-4	0.50	3		17.90	+1.18	48	1837	-192
Tipton_Ag	86	55	71	-3	0.16	3	80	25.00	+9.14	49	1647	-131
East Central (6)												
Farmland	88	54	71	-2	1.52	4	71	22.16	+6.55	49	1738	+8
New_Castle	84	53	69	-5	3.34	3		19.40	+2.24	45	1494	-276
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	92	61	76	-2	2.87	5		20.34	+3.69	51	2269	-131
Freelandville	91	62	74	-2	0.59	3		20.26	+3.00	46	2099	-42
Shoals	90	60	75	-1	0.47	4		23.54	+4.84	52	2040	-18
Stendal	91	61	75	-3	1.02	4		20.27	+1.85	43	2166	-83
Vincennes_5NE	91	61	75	-2	1.95	6		22.09	+4.83	60	2135	-6
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	90	62	75	+0	2.60	6		21.81	+2.88	63	2073	+20
Oolitic	87	59	73	-2	1.77	3	76	24.00	+6.26	57	1940	-23
Tell_City	92	65	77	+0	0.98	3		18.98	+0.23	41	2398	+120
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	89	56	73	-1	0.62	3		20.00	+2.87	51	1948	+93
Milan_5NE	88	58	73	-1	1.75	5		23.97	+6.84	70	1893	+38
Scottsburg	88	56	73	-3	1.19	4		20.72	+3.16	55	1964	-160

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.
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www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

conditions or saturated soils during early pod development, it could trigger the toxic phase of Sudden Death Syndrome.

"The other disease, which most likely will be in northern Indiana, is Sclerotinia, or what we call white mold. Again, we have wet conditions, high humidity in the canopy, relatively cool nighttime temperatures and flowers on the plant. This all is very conducive to white mold infection."

Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) can ruin a soybean crop. The SDS fungus, which favors wet field conditions, produces small yellow blotches on soybean leaves. The plant tissue within the infected area becomes brown and dies, impairing the plant's grain-making ability.

White mold attacks the soybean plant's stem, covering it with a light-colored fluffy growth. These lesions cause premature plant death.

Farmers in southern Indiana counties struggled to get soybeans planted by May 20, the ending date for maximum yield potential. Most soybean acres in the region were seeded around mid-June or later, Christmas said.

"Yield potential on late-planted beans is going to be lower. We'll see that happen this year in the southern third of the state, "he said. "The one good thing about it is we'll probably see a lower incidence of Sudden Death Syndrome in southern Indiana than we normally see."

Root rot diseases are surprisingly absent from the late-planted crop, Christmas said.

"Let's hope that we have good growing conditions the remainder of the season and get adequate moisture during August and early September, to fill the pods on the late-planted beans in southern Indiana," he said.

At this point, farmers can do little to improve their soybean crops other than control weeds, Christmas said. He advised against applying nitrogen — even to plants starved for the nutrient.

"It's a waste of money because the plants prefer the nitrogen when it's applied either as a fertilizer or when it's available in the soil as organic material that breaks down," he said. "If you apply nitrogen you can make the plant look better, but it's not going to do you any good in terms of yield."

Ellsworth Christmas, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University–Reprinted with permission from Ag Answers, Steve Leer, Writer

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