USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 9

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Ideal weather conditions last week allowed farmers to make good progress harvesting corn and soybeans, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn harvest is on pace with the 5 year average, but is about 5 days behind last year's pace. Soybean harvest is about 2 days ahead of average, but is 7 days behind last year. Fall tillage has taken place in some fields along with spreading of fertilizer and lime.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Corn **condition** is rated 49 percent good to excellent compared with 84 percent last year at this time. Ninety-five percent of the corn is **mature** compared with 95 percent last year and 92 percent for the average. Thirty-one percent of the corn has been **harvested** compared with 44 percent for last year and 31 percent for the average. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging about 19 percent.

Soybean **condition** is rated 57 percent good to excellent compared with 78 percent last year. Ninety-eight percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 98 percent last year and 97 percent for the average. Fifty-two percent of the soybean acreage has been **harvested** compared with 70 percent last year and 48 percent for the average. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging about 12 percent.

Thirty-four percent of the winter wheat acreage has been **planted** compared with 41 percent last year and 33 percent for the average. Five percent of the winter wheat acreage has **emerged** compared with 8 percent for both last year and the average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 3 percent excellent, 32 percent good, 41 percent fair, 18 percent poor and 6 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Mature	95	89	95	92
Corn Harvested	31	20	44	31
Soybeans Shedding Lvs	98	95	98	97
Soybeans Mature	91	78	92	86
Soybeans Harvested	52	22	70	48
Tobacco Harvested	92	85	96	96
Winter Wheat Planted	34	11	41	33
Winter Wheat Emerged	5	1	8	8

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Corn	5	13	33	40	9
Soybeans	3	9	31	45	12
Pasture	6	18	41	32	3

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	2	33
Short	15	10	43
Adequate	79	79	23
Surplus	3	9	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	10	10	20
Short	27	23	39
Adequate	61	63	41
Surplus	2	4	0
Days Suitable	6.4	4.6	6.8

CONTACT INFORMATION

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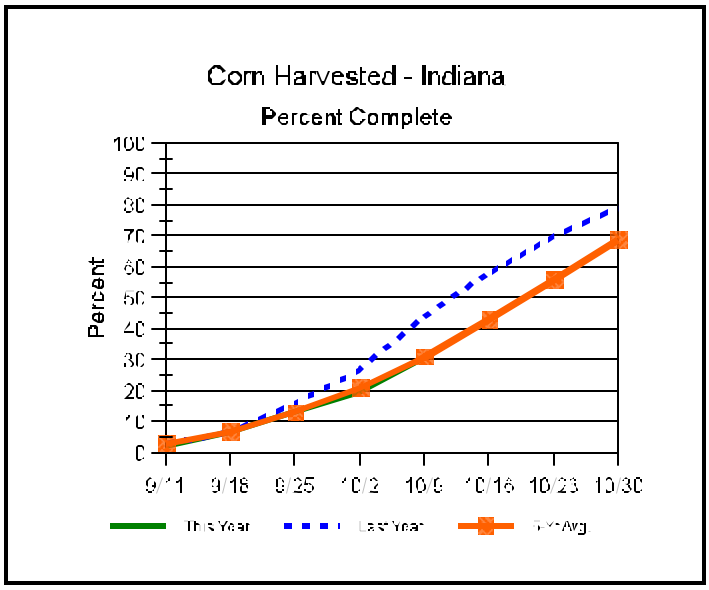
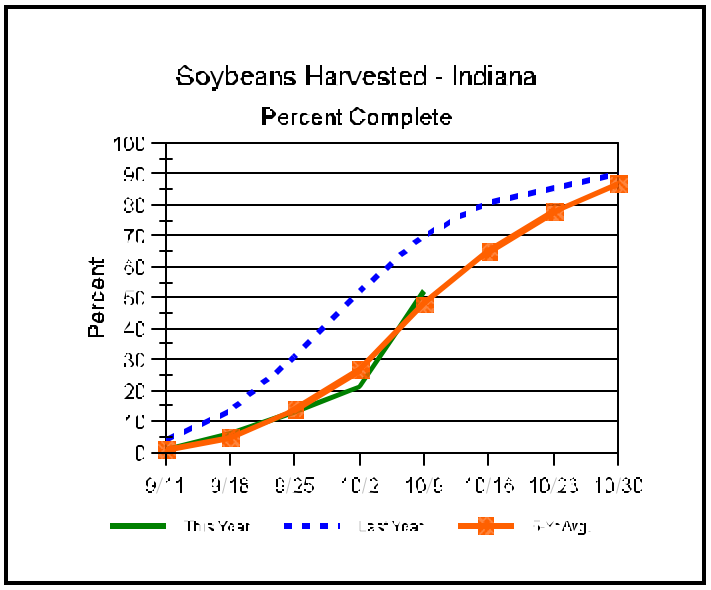
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Ear Rot, Aflatoxin Adding to Corn Growers' Worries

Lower yields aren't the only thing corn producers can expect from the hot, dry weather this summer. Purdue University plant pathologist Charles Woloshuk said farmers should also be on the look out for an ear rot that may cause a potent carcinogen.

Aspergillus ear rot is caused by a type of mold, Aspergillus flavus. It can cause aflatoxin contamination in corn.

"We have that problem when it's hot, the plants are stressed, the overnight temperatures have been very high in the 70s and 80s and we haven't had a lot of rain," Woloshuk said. "That doesn't mean that ear rot will be there, but we tend to get worried about it. Aflatoxin is one of the most potent natural carcinogens."

For that reason the Food and Drug Administration has set aflatoxin thresholds of 20 parts per billion in grain products and 0.5 parts per billion in milk. Lactating animals that ingest feed containing aflatoxins can pass the toxins through to the milk.

"Right now is a good time to scout your fields for ear rot," Woloshuk said. "Once the grain is combined, it's more difficult to assess aflatoxin contamination."

Producers should look for aspergillus ear rot on hills and in areas where the soil is light or other areas where the corn is stressed or stunted, he said. Another approach would be to cut a swath across the field with a combine and then examine ears along the swath for ear rot.

In either case, Woloshuk said, "You have to randomly take ears and pull the husks back and look for an olive green mold. It's not blue-green, it's not green-green, and you might find those."

Other colored molds may indicate other problems, and a high number of moldy ears can mean the corn has other toxins or won't store well.

Aspergillus ear rot may be at the base or the tip of the ear, but it can always be identified by its powdery texture and olive green color. Photos of aspergillus are available online at http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/ohiofieldcropdisease/Mycotoxins/mycopagedefault.htm.

"My advice to someone who finds an ear with Aspergillus is to harvest ears around the area and see if there's a lot or just one ear," Woloshuk said. "Most of the time you'll just see one, but one ear could have a lot of toxin in it, so if it's harvested and mixed into the corn, it still could have an impact on the overall toxin level."

For farmers who find evidence of aspergillus ear rot in their fields, Woloshuk suggests harvesting as soon as possible.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday October 9, 2005

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2005 thru October 9, 2005 Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	89	39	64	+6	0.00	0		20.22	-2.64	57	3474	+361
Valparaiso_AP_I	85	39	64	+7	0.45	1		16.08	-8.97	52	3287	+443
Wanatah	86	37	62	+7	1.92	1	67	18.68	-5.45	65	3151	+442
Wheatfield	87	40	63	+8	0.40	1		23.78	+0.43	107	3324	+559
Winamac	86	40	63	+8	0.07	1	61	20.95	-2.26	65	3346	+495
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	85	40	63	+7	0.10	1		17.87	-5.99	62	3241	+241
South_Bend	85	38	63	+8	0.55	1		13.50	-9.68	61	3381	+569
Young_America	88	40	65	+9	0.00	0		23.18	+0.66	57	3356	+406
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	86	39	63	+8	0.00	0	63	18.48	-4.10	62	3161	+479
Fort_Wayne	87	41	65	+9	0.00	0		17.20	-3.42	61	3347	+396
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	85	42	63	+5	0.00	0		29.60	+3.55	55	3331	-6
Perrysville	90	38	65	+8	0.00	0	66	20.89	-3.44	60	3616	+516
Spencer_Ag	88	42	65	+8	0.00	0		29.48	+3.44	63	3438	+314
Terre_Haute_AFB	86	42	64	+5	0.01	1		21.82	-2.76	58	3664	+353
W_Lafayette_6NW	88	36	63	+7	0.06	1	70	16.89	-6.03	62	3425	+487
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	84	42	64	+6	0.01	1		22.36	-0.56	63	3692	+412
Greenfield	86	43	65	+7	0.00	0		31.62	+6.58	73	3438	+283
Indianapolis_AP	84	44	65	+7	0.00	0		22.64	-0.28	60	3757	+477
Indianapolis_SE	86	42	64	+6	0.00	0		24.70	+1.29	62	3454	+179
Tipton_Ag	86	40	64	+9	0.19	1	68	24.72	+1.33	64	3194	+348
East Central(6)												
Farmland	86	43	64	+9	0.06	1	62	23.64	+1.01	61	3220	+443
New_Castle	86	43	65	+10	0.00	0		26.00	+2.02	56	3115	+268
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	88	45	66	+6	0.00	0		22.34	-0.85	55	4086	+280
Freelandville	87	43	65	+6	0.00	0		25.36	+1.22	59	3809	+388
Shoals	88	40	65	+7	0.00	0		25.76	-0.29	70	3809	+491
Stendal	88	43	67	+8	0.00	0		24.97	-0.89	55	4063	+480
Vincennes_5NE	90	41	66	+7	0.00	0	71	28.77	+4.63	62	3977	+556
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	86	46	66	+8	0.02	1		24.94	-1.26	60	3875	+581
Oolitic	87	44	65	+7	0.00	0	69	24.83	-0.12	62	3543	+379
Tell_City	87	46	68	+8	0.00	0		24.54	-1.92	47	4241	+556
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	88	48	67	+11	0.11	1		23.26	-0.87	59	3641	+639
Milan_5NE	86	46	65	+9	0.18	2		26.27	+2.14	91	3548	+546
Scottsburg	88	46	66	+8	0.08	1		25.08	+0.25	68	3740	+333

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

Ear Rot, Aflatoxin Adding to Corn Growers' Worries (Continued)

"If a storm dumps rain on a field and it rewets the ears, then we could see toxin levels that eventually grow quite high," he said. "Until we see the weather cool down, I think producers need to think about getting the corn out of the field and drying it down to at least 14 or 14.5 percent."

Corn that does have aflatoxin contamination can be used in animal feed, so long as it remains under the FDA's limits. Woloshuk said poultry and young animals are especially susceptible to aflatoxins, which affect the liver. Long-term effects can include low weight gain, weakened immune systems and cancer.

More information about scouting for Aspergillus ear rot is available on the Web in the Sept. 9, 2005 issue of Purdue Pest and Crop Newsletter. The newsletter is available at http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/p&c/index2005.htm.

Written Friday, September 30, 2005, Ag Answers, Business and Science of Agriculture, An Ohio State Extension and Purdue Extension Partnership.

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