



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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## CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 23

### AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Rain showers slowed harvest progress mid week but field operations resumed over the weekend, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Several operations are now done with soybean harvest and are focusing on corn. Some elevators are running at full capacity and are only accepting deliveries as they move grain out. Many farmers have been visiting local FSA offices to sign up for Loan Deficiency Payments.

### FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Corn **condition** is rated 56 percent good to excellent compared with 84 percent last year at this time. Sixty-two percent of the corn has been **harvested** compared with 70 percent for last year and 56 percent for the average. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging about 17 percent.

Eighty-seven percent of the soybean acreage has been **harvested** compared with 86 percent last year and 78 percent for the average. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging about 12 percent.

Eighty-six percent of the winter wheat acreage has been **planted** compared with 75 percent last year and 73 percent for the average. Fifty-one percent of the winter wheat acreage has **emerged** compared with 41 percent last year and 42 percent for the average. Moisture received during the week will help with emergence and growth of winter wheat.

### LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

**Pasture** condition is rated 3 percent excellent, 32 percent good, 43 percent fair, 17 percent poor and 5 percent very poor. Livestock remain to be in mostly good condition. Some farmers are feeding hay to help supplement the lack of pasture.

### CROP PROGRESS TABLE

| Crop                 | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5-Year Avg |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Percent              |           |           |           |            |
| Corn Harvested       | 62        | 46        | 70        | 56         |
| Soybeans Harvested   | 87        | 71        | 86        | 78         |
| Winter Wheat Planted | 86        | 68        | 75        | 73         |
| Winter Wheat Emerged | 51        | 21        | 41        | 42         |

### CROP CONDITION TABLE

| Crop    | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Percent |           |      |      |      |           |
| Corn    | 4         | 11   | 29   | 45   | 11        |
| Wheat   | 1         | 3    | 28   | 59   | 9         |
| Pasture | 5         | 17   | 43   | 32   | 3         |

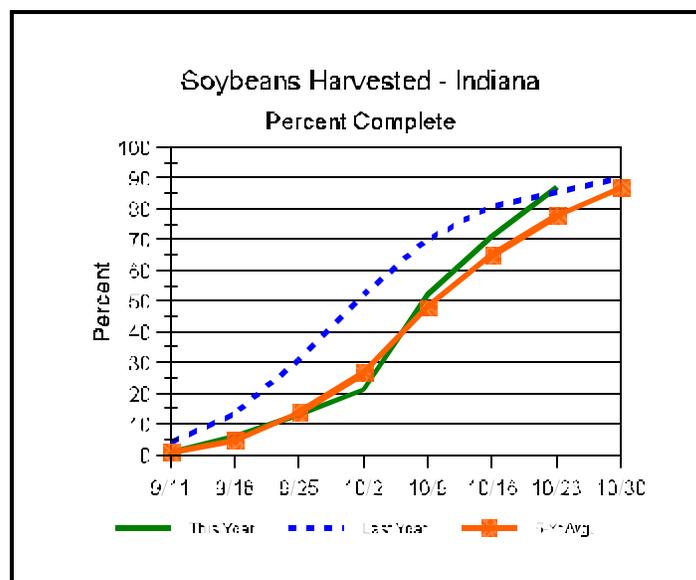
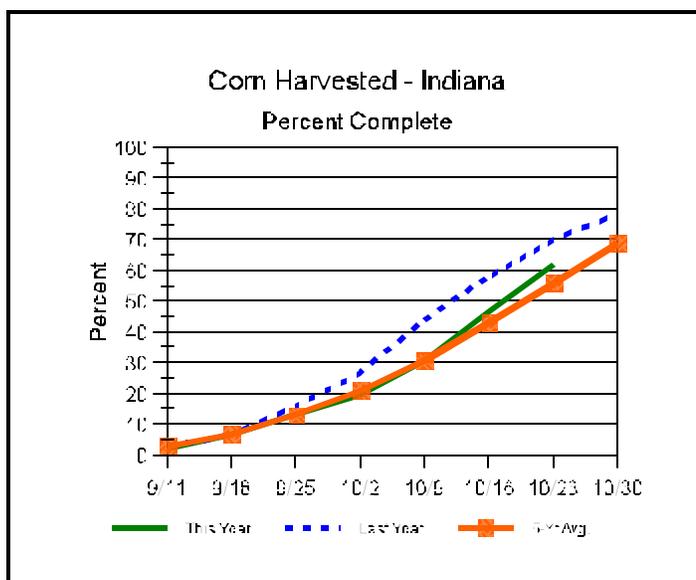
### SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

|                      | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Percent              |           |           |           |
| <b>Topsoil</b>       |           |           |           |
| Very Short           | 3         | 5         | 1         |
| Short                | 19        | 24        | 11        |
| Adequate             | 70        | 70        | 72        |
| Surplus              | 8         | 1         | 16        |
| <b>Subsoil</b>       |           |           |           |
| Very Short           | 9         | 11        | 4         |
| Short                | 29        | 30        | 26        |
| Adequate             | 59        | 58        | 66        |
| Surplus              | 3         | 1         | 4         |
| <b>Days Suitable</b> | 5.0       | 6.5       | 2.8       |

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Crop Progress



## Other Agricultural Comments And News

### At Any Rate, Nitrogen Applications Getting Pricey

Nitrogen application recommendations for Midwest farmers will soon be changing, mainly driven by a need to be more cost efficient as fertilizer prices continue to rise.

Historically, fertilizer recommendations for Ohio, Indiana and Michigan field crops have offered optimum nitrogen rates based on the maximum yield potential for a particular area. For example, to achieve an average yield of 175 bushels per acre of corn in northwest Ohio, farmers should apply 196 pounds of nitrogen. That amount ensures the crop suffers no nitrogen deficiency.

Such a system, however, relies on nitrogen being inexpensive and over-application not too costly, said Robert Mullen, an Ohio State University soil scientist. Both are no longer the case.

"This approach has served agriculture well. The economic detriment due to over-application has historically been small from an economic standpoint," Mullen said. "But as nitrogen prices have risen over the past several years, the economic penalty for over-application has reached a point where economic considerations need to be made. Producers -- especially those managing large acreages -- are beginning to look

at fertilizer nitrogen application from an economic standpoint."

Fertility specialists throughout the Corn Belt have devised a new system basing optimum nitrogen rates on the current price of fertilizer and the average price of the crop. For example, if nitrogen is 25 cents per pound and the price of corn is \$2.50 a bushel, to achieve 175 bushels per acre of corn in northwest Ohio the best nitrogen rate would be 156 pounds, at an application range of 150-180 pounds. As the cost of nitrogen or the price of corn changes, the optimum rate of nitrogen also changes.

"It boils down to an exercise in risk management," Mullen said. "The old system uses a single value, while this new system gives farmers a range to work with. If farmers are risk averse, they can use the high side of the rate range. If they are more willing to accept risk, they can use a lower side of the rate range, increasing their potential for economic reward." Current fertilizer recommendations needed to be updated for several reasons, Mullen said.

"One reason is that the system assumes the soil is a blank medium and devoid of natural

# Weather Information Table

## Week ending Sunday October 23, 2005

| Station                 | Past Week Weather Summary Data |    |     |         |       |      |  | Accumulation |        |               |       |               |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----|-----|---------|-------|------|--|--------------|--------|---------------|-------|---------------|
|                         | Air                            |    |     | Precip. | 4 in  | Soil | April 1, 2005 thru<br>October 23, 2005 |              |        |               |       |               |
|                         | Temperature                    |    | DFN |         |       |      | Total                                  | Days         | Temp   | Precipitation |       | GDD Base 50°F |
|                         | Hi                             | Lo |     | Avg     | Total | DFN  |  |              |        | Days          | Total | DFN           |
| <b>Northwest (1)</b>    |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Chalmers_5W             | 74                             | 34 | 52  | -1      | 1.46  | 3    |  | 21.68        | -2.30  | 60            | 3555  | +366          |
| Valparaiso_AP_I         | 73                             | 36 | 53  | +1      | 0.06  | 3    |  | 16.16        | -10.27 | 57            | 3372  | +454          |
| Wanatah                 | 74                             | 34 | 51  | +1      | 0.06  | 2    | 56                                     | 18.77        | -6.54  | 68            | 3213  | +444          |
| Wheatfield              | 72                             | 35 | 52  | +2      | 0.55  | 5    |  | 24.33        | -0.09  | 112           | 3394  | +569          |
| Winamac                 | 72                             | 32 | 51  | +0      | 0.19  | 4    | 54                                     | 21.15        | -3.25  | 70            | 3414  | +500          |
| <b>North Central(2)</b> |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Plymouth                | 70                             | 36 | 50  | -2      | 0.10  | 2    |  | 18.02        | -7.17  | 65            | 3299  | +230          |
| South_Bend              | 67                             | 36 | 50  | -2      | 0.30  | 3    |  | 13.80        | -10.74 | 64            | 3444  | +568          |
| Young_America           | 72                             | 36 | 51  | +1      | 1.00  | 4    |  | 24.18        | +0.43  | 61            | 3433  | +421          |
| <b>Northeast (3)</b>    |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Columbia_City           | 70                             | 33 | 50  | +0      | 0.08  | 3    | 55                                     | 18.67        | -5.03  | 68            | 3220  | +478          |
| Fort_Wayne              | 72                             | 35 | 51  | +1      | 0.12  | 2    |  | 17.39        | -4.35  | 66            | 3420  | +398          |
| <b>West Central(4)</b>  |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Greencastle             | 74                             | 35 | 54  | +0      | 1.08  | 3    |  | 30.68        | +3.34  | 58            | 3417  | -10           |
| Perrysville             | 77                             | 35 | 54  | +3      | 1.05  | 3    | 57                                     | 21.94        | -3.51  | 63            | 3715  | +537          |
| Spencer_Ag              | 79                             | 38 | 55  | +4      | 2.26  | 3    |  | 31.77        | +4.47  | 68            | 3539  | +340          |
| Terre_Haute_AFB         | 77                             | 38 | 56  | +3      | 0.95  | 3    |  | 22.78        | -2.95  | 62            | 3769  | +370          |
| W_Lafayette_6NW         | 74                             | 32 | 52  | +2      | 1.09  | 3    | 62                                     | 18.03        | -6.06  | 66            | 3510  | +501          |
| <b>Central (5)</b>      |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Eagle_Creek_AP          | 74                             | 39 | 55  | +2      | 0.95  | 3    |  | 23.32        | -0.76  | 67            | 3799  | +434          |
| Greenfield              | 75                             | 39 | 53  | +2      | 3.07  | 4    |  | 34.72        | +8.34  | 79            | 3520  | +286          |
| Indianapolis_AP         | 76                             | 40 | 55  | +3      | 1.51  | 3    |  | 24.15        | +0.07  | 63            | 3869  | +504          |
| Indianapolis_SE         | 75                             | 37 | 54  | +2      | 2.82  | 4    |  | 27.52        | +2.85  | 66            | 3540  | +181          |
| Tipton_Ag               | 72                             | 34 | 52  | +2      | 0.66  | 2    | 59                                     | 25.39        | +0.60  | 67            | 3273  | +363          |
| <b>East Central(6)</b>  |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Farmland                | 73                             | 34 | 51  | +2      | 0.68  | 2    | 52                                     | 24.39        | +0.64  | 65            | 3288  | +451          |
| New_Castle              | 77                             | 34 | 53  | +3      | 1.67  | 4    |  | 27.67        | +2.36  | 60            | 3194  | +284          |
| <b>Southwest (7)</b>    |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Evansville              | 88                             | 40 | 62  | +7      | 0.70  | 2    |  | 23.04        | -1.41  | 57            | 4254  | +338          |
| Freelandville           | 81                             | 42 | 58  | +5      | 0.73  | 3    |  | 26.09        | +0.67  | 62            | 3933  | +419          |
| Shoals                  | 79                             | 36 | 56  | +4      | 1.06  | 4    |  | 26.82        | -0.65  | 74            | 3921  | +514          |
| Stendal                 | 87                             | 43 | 61  | +7      | 0.69  | 3    |  | 25.66        | -1.51  | 58            | 4218  | +539          |
| Vincennes_5NE           | 86                             | 39 | 59  | +5      | 0.90  | 3    | 61                                     | 29.67        | +4.25  | 65            | 4110  | +596          |
| <b>South Central(8)</b> |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Leavenworth             | 84                             | 39 | 59  | +6      | 0.44  | 4    |  | 25.42        | -2.22  | 65            | 4009  | +627          |
| Oolitic                 | 82                             | 35 | 55  | +4      | 0.48  | 3    | 61                                     | 25.32        | -1.14  | 66            | 3645  | +403          |
| Tell_City               | 88                             | 44 | 64  | +9      | 0.23  | 2    |  | 24.77        | -2.99  | 49            | 4433  | +638          |
| <b>Southeast (9)</b>    |                                |    |     |         |       |      |  |              |        |               |       |               |
| Brookville              | 83                             | 37 | 55  | +4      | 0.48  | 2    |  | 23.74        | -1.73  | 61            | 3749  | +677          |
| Milan_5NE               | 80                             | 38 | 55  | +4      | 1.20  | 4    |  | 27.47        | +2.00  | 95            | 3645  | +573          |
| Scottsburg              | 82                             | 36 | 56  | +3      | 0.90  | 4    |  | 25.98        | -0.20  | 72            | 3853  | +355          |

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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## At Any Rate, Nitrogen Applications Getting Pricey (Continued)

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nitrogen. We know that's not true," he said. "And the problem we run into is that we don't know exactly how much nitrogen is in the soil and how much will be available to the crop. The release of nitrogen is dependent on the weather, so there's always a possibility of adding more or less nitrogen to the soil than is needed."

Also, nitrogen applied to the soil always reaches a point of saturation, and yield eventually levels off no matter how much more nitrogen is added, Mullen said. As a result, farmers could be wasting money on unneeded nitrogen using current nitrogen recommendations.

"Is it always economical to shoot for maximum yield? Research has shown that it's not," Mullen said. "It may take the same amount of nitrogen to reach 179 bushels per acre as it does to only

reach 170 bushels per acre. It's impossible to determine at what point the nitrogen level is reached to where it is no longer a benefit to gain more yield without a nitrogen rate trial in every field."

The new nitrogen application recommendations will be the focus of Mullen's Extension presentations during producer and consultant meetings and field days this fall and winter. Ohio State University Extension fact sheets and bulletins will highlight changes to the current Ohio, Indiana and Michigan recommendations beginning this winter.

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