USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 30

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Corn planting was in full swing in many central and northern areas, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field conditions were near ideal before weekend rain showers halted operations. South central and southeastern portions of the state have been too wet to make much progress with fieldwork. Corn planting is 2 days behind average and 7 days behind last year's near record pace.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.1 **days suitable for field work**. Thirty-three percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 49 percent last year and 40 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 43 percent of the corn acreage has been planted in the north, 25 percent in the central region, and 30 percent in the south. Five percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared to 8 percent last year and 8 percent for the 5-year average. Five percent of the **soybean** acreage is **planted** compared to 10 percent last year and 11 percent for the 5-year average.

Seventy-six percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 78 percent last year and 80 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 80 percent good to excellent compared with 72 percent last year at this time.

Major activities during the week included: soil preparation, applying fertilizer, hauling grain to market, hauling and applying manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 14 percent excellent, 65 percent good, 18 percent fair, 2 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Livestock are reported to be in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
		Percent		
Corn Planted	33	9	49	40
Corn Emerged	5	NA	8	8
Soybeans Planted	5	NA	10	11
Winter Wheat Jointed	76	54	78	80
Winter Wheat Headed	11	NA	4	6

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Pasture	1	2	18	65	14
Winter Wheat 2006	0	3	17	61	19
Winter Wheat 2005	1	4	23	56	16

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	4	3	4
Adequate	66	66	57
Surplus	30	31	39
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	7	6	5
Adequate	72	71	75
Surplus	20	22	20
Days Suitable	4.1	3.1	1.5

CONTACT INFORMATION
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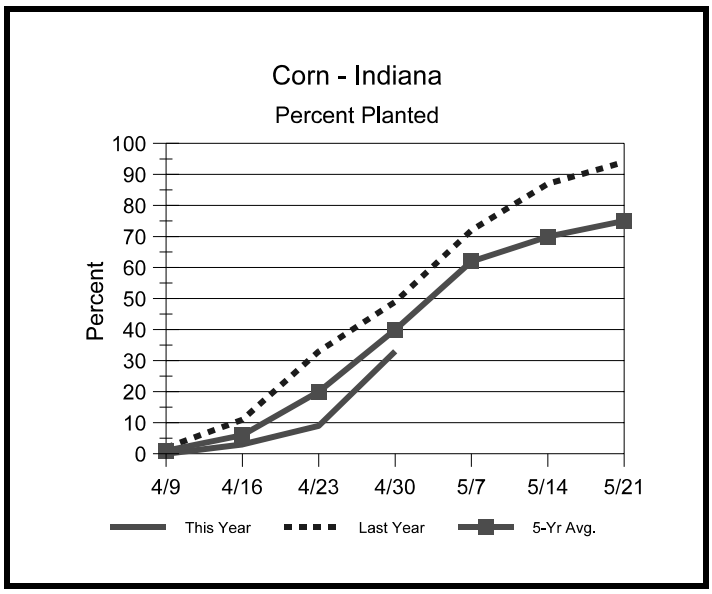
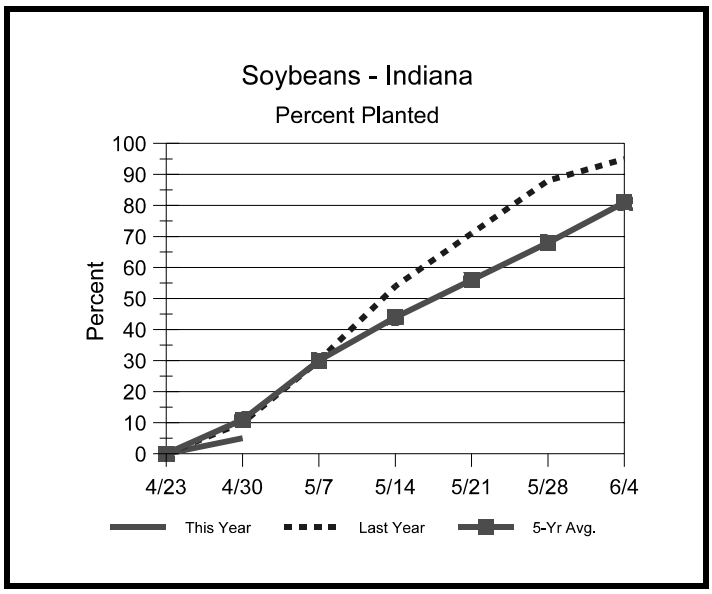
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Profitability of Cutting Seeding Rates: Fact or Fiction

- In most situations a uniform stand of 100,000 plants per acre will yield 100% yield potential in drilled soybean. Rowed beans require a minimum of 80,000 plants per acre.

Seed input costs coupled with tighter profit margins are forcing growers to reconsider their soybean seeding rates. In a recent soybean production survey growers were asked to list their current row spacing and soybean seeding rates (Table 1 on page 4). The results of this survey indicated that 57% of Indiana soybean growers are planting in rows spaced ≤10 inches apart, 31% of growers are between 11 and 20 inches, and 12% of growers are ≥21 inches. Within each row spacing category, growers may be over-planting as much as 6% (≤ 10 inches), 24% (between 11 and 20 inches), or 33% (≥21 inches). These results suggest that growers are relatively close to the Purdue University recommendations for row spacings ≤10 inches; however there is less confidence in the seeding rate recommendations in rows spaced ≥11 inches. Those growers at ≥11 inches would benefit most by re-evaluating their current seeding rate practices.

To continue to refine Purdue University seeding rate recommendations, research was conducted at six locations across Indiana in 2005. Our results indicate that if growers have a relatively uniform soybean stand of 100,000 plants per acre or greater, yield potential is 100% in full season soybeans (Table 2 on page 4). This data supports findings from research done several years ago. To achieve a more uniform soybean stand under reduced seeding rates it may prove cost effective to use a fungicide seed treatment. Decades of Purdue University data has shown no effect of soybean seed treatments on grain yield; however we have often seen a significant increase in stand. The key is to keep final soybean stands above 100,000 plants per acre. Growers should run the numbers for their farm to determine if it is more cost effective to plant more seeds or utilize a seed treatment.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 30, 2006

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2006 thru April 30, 2006				
	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	73	33	53	-4	0.53	2		4.08	+0.45	10	171	+55
Francesville	72	33	52	-2	0.83	2		3.65	-0.03	10	157	+69
Valparaiso_AP_I	70	36	53	-2	0.38	3		1.99	-1.97	9	183	+100
Wanatah	72	30	52	+0	0.74	2	58	2.89	-0.92	10	147	+83
Winamac	71	34	52	-2	0.55	2	54	3.13	-0.55	7	168	+80
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	70	31	51	-4	0.46	2		2.22	-1.65	11	155	+58
South_Bend	68	27	52	-1	0.40	2		2.13	-1.69	13	173	+100
Young_America	72	33	54	+0	0.63	2		3.64	+0.17	11	189	+104
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	71	29	51	-2	0.33	2	55	1.68	-1.94	10	134	+73
Fort_Wayne	71	29	52	-2	0.28	2		4.21	+0.83	12	174	+95
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	73	33	53	-4	0.39	2		4.06	+0.34	9	207	+74
Perrysville	76	33	55	+0	0.46	3	57	4.14	+0.27	10	225	+117
Spencer_Ag	75	35	55	-1	0.42	2		4.93	+0.92	12	228	+114
Terre_Haute_AFB	73	34	56	-2	0.43	3		3.73	-0.16	11	265	+131
W_Lafayette_6NW	72	32	53	-1	0.68	2	64	3.45	-0.26	10	195	+106
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	71	39	56	-1	0.44	2		5.21	+1.51	11	257	+133
Greenfield	71	36	54	-2	0.57	2		5.91	+1.89	13	200	+99
Indianapolis_AP	71	38	56	+0	0.51	2		4.73	+1.03	13	269	+145
Indianapolis_SE	72	37	54	-3	0.53	2		5.37	+1.62	11	203	+90
Tipton_Ag	70	35	52	-2	0.45	2	60	4.45	+0.56	15	169	+98
East Central(6)												
Farmland	70	34	51	-3	0.52	2	60	3.37	-0.20	12	144	+78
New_Castle	70	35	53	+0	0.85	2		4.24	+0.17	13	174	+104
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	77	37	61	+2	0.59	4		3.76	-0.26	13	358	+150
Freelandville	74	41	58	+0	0.24	3		4.06	+0.19	12	279	+129
Shoals	77	32	57	+1	0.24	3		6.18	+2.08	12	276	+128
Stendal	79	40	61	+3	0.34	4		4.79	+0.35	12	348	+173
Vincennes_5NE	78	38	58	+1	0.26	3	60	7.11	+3.24	12	296	+146
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	77	38	59	+2	0.42	3		5.75	+1.17	16	299	+146
Oolitic	76	33	55	-2	0.30	3	60	5.21	+1.21	13	225	+98
Tell_City	78	41	61	+3	0.42	4		4.39	-0.42	15	355	+169
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	75	35	56	+2	0.39	1		5.78	+1.95	12	226	+131
Greensburg	72	37	56	+1	0.40	2		4.97	+0.90	11	243	+128
Scottsburg	76	34	56	-2	0.70	3		7.10	+2.92	14	275	+124

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

Profitability of Cutting Seeding Rates: Fact or Fiction (Continued)

Table 1. Comparison between Purdue University soybean seeding rate recommendations and actual grower practices (1,330 responses).

Row spacing (inches)	Actual seeding rate (seeds per acre)	Purdue recommendation (90% germination)	Percent of respondents
≥ 21	155,000	116,200	12%
11 ≥ x ≤ 20	180,000	145,200	31%
≤ 10	198,000	186,700	57%

Table 2. Impact of plant population (7.5 inch rows) on soybean grain yield.

Northern locations[1]			Southern locations[2]	
Target stand[3]	Actual stand	Yield (bu/a)[4]	Actual stand	Yield (bu/a)
50,000	46,100	66.1 c	50,600	78.8 b
100,000	94,000	72.6 b	101,200	87.7 a
150,000	141,300	75.7 ab	144,300	91.2 a
200,000	170,600	78.8 a	208,000	91.1 a
250,000	209,200	79.0 a	261,507	92.6 a

[1][2]Purdue University Agricultural Centers: PPAC, TPAC, NEPAC, and Davis.
[3]Purdue University Agricultural Centers: SEPAC and SWPAC.
[4]Plots were seeded assuming 90% germination.
Within a column of yield data, there is a 95% probability that means followed by a letter in common are not statistically different.

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