



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 15

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Freezing temperatures and heavy precipitation occurred across the state, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Up to two inches of snow was reported in some northern counties. Damage to fruit, berry, wheat and alfalfa crops has been reported. The extent of this freeze damage is unknown at this point. Several sunny days are needed before field activities can resume.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 1.2 **days suitable for field work**. A limited amount of fieldwork was accomplished early in the week with some anhydrous ammonia and herbicides being applied. Only a very few fields of corn have been planted at this point.

Thirty-three percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 29 percent for last year and 33 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 12 percent of the winter wheat acreage was jointed in the north, 18 percent in the central region, and 65 percent in the south. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 39 percent good to excellent compared to 78 percent last year at this time. Many farmers are concerned as to the extent of the freeze damage that occurred this week.

Major activities during the week included: preparing planting equipment, applying anhydrous ammonia, spraying herbicides, hauling grain to market, tillage of soils, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 6% excellent, 47% good, 34% fair, 11% poor, and 2% very poor. Livestock are reported to be in mostly good condition. There have only been a few reports of respiratory problems in livestock due to the change in weather conditions.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Winter Wheat Jointed	33	21	29	33

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	2	11	34	47	6
Winter Wheat 2007	6	17	38	37	2
Winter Wheat 2006	1	3	18	61	17

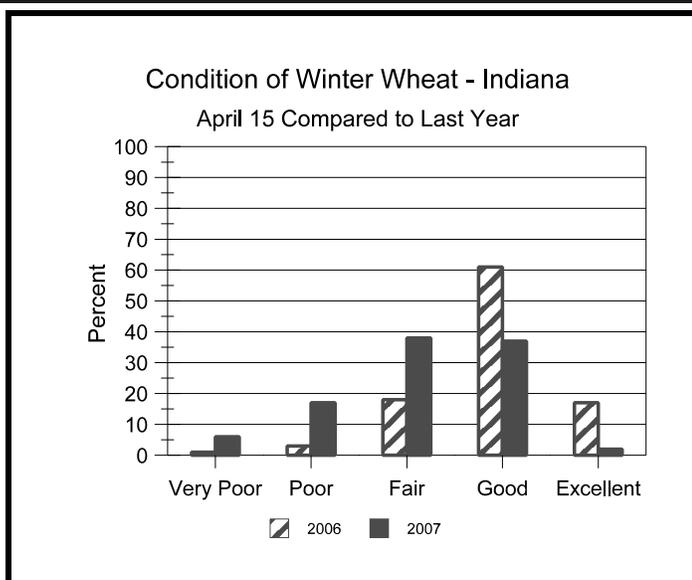
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	3
Adequate	40	50	60
Surplus	60	50	37
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	0	0	7
Adequate	61	66	71
Surplus	39	34	21
Days Suitable	1.2	1.5	3.7

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Perspective on Planting Dates & Corn Yield Potential

Conventional wisdom says that the prime planting window for achieving optimum corn yields in much of Indiana opens about April 20 and closes about May 10. This "window" typically opens about one week later across the northern tier of Indiana counties (cooler conditions) and about one week earlier across the southern tier of Indiana counties (warmer conditions).

According to the latest (Apr 9) USDA crop progress report, zero planted corn acres were reported for Indiana (USDA-NASS, 2007). Compared to the 2002-2006 average planted acres for this date, Indiana corn growers are about 3% behind "schedule". Rainfall occurring throughout the state even as I write will undoubtedly cause further delays to a serious start for planting the 2007 Indiana corn crop.

What are the consequences of a delayed start to planting? How important a predictor of statewide corn yield is planting date anyway? Does late planting in and of itself guarantee lower than normal yields? Interestingly, the planting date effect on statewide yield is somewhat paradoxical.

If one reviews the data for average statewide planting dates and corn yield for the past twenty-four years, there is NOT a strong relationship between the date by which half of the state's corn crop is planted and the subsequent statewide average corn grain yield (Fig. 1). In fact, less than 15% of the variability in statewide corn grain yield during the past twenty-four years can be explained by planting date.

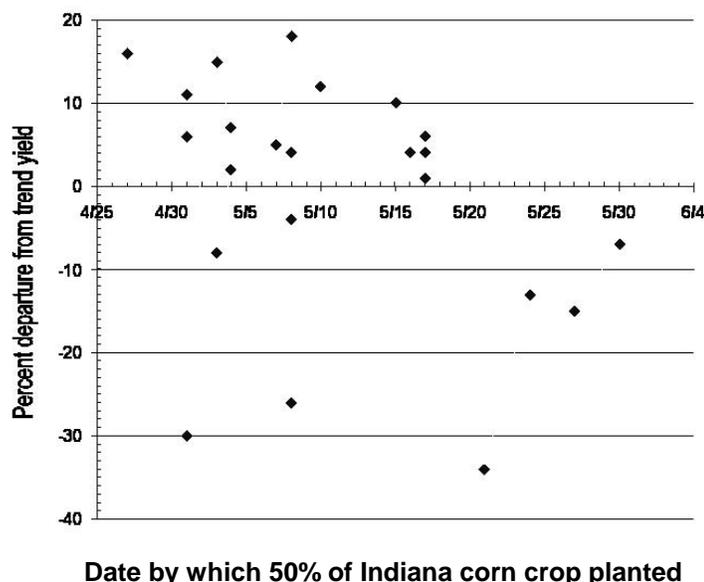


Fig. 1. Percent departure from trend corn yield in Indiana for 24 years (1983-2006) and dates by which at least 50% of the state's corn crop was planted. [Data source = USDA-NASS].

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 15, 2007

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2007 thru April 15, 2007				
							4 in	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	54	24	38	-13	1.73	4		2.05	+0.31	6	25	-12
Francesville	51	23	36	-13	1.44	4		1.71	-0.10	5	18	-5
Valparaiso_AP_I	52	20	37	-12	0.49	2		0.70	-1.23	3	16	-6
Wanatah	52	15	35	-12	1.04	3	41	1.42	-0.46	4	12	-4
Winamac	52	24	36	-13	1.43	3	41	1.84	+0.03	4	17	-6
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	52	24	36	-14	1.71	3		2.74	+0.84	7	18	-9
South_Bend	50	23	37	-12	1.04	3		1.54	-0.40	7	19	+0
Young_America	54	25	38	-12	1.12	3		1.71	+0.04	5	26	+4
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	51	19	35	-12	0.92	2	39	1.36	-0.44	5	19	+5
Fort_Wayne	52	23	38	-11	1.51	4		1.99	+0.34	8	26	+6
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	60	23	38	-14	1.62	4		3.07	+1.27	6	34	-9
Perrysville	60	24	39	-11	1.33	4	42	2.51	+0.59	6	34	+1
Spencer_Ag	60	24	39	-12	1.24	4		2.96	+1.00	6	36	+0
Terre_Haute_AFB	64	23	41	-11	1.29	4		2.48	+0.60	6	39	-6
W_Lafayette_6NW	55	23	39	-11	1.62	4	42	2.17	+0.41	7	28	+4
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	59	26	40	-12	1.09	4		3.40	+1.57	7	40	+1
Greenfield	56	25	38	-12	1.49	5		2.97	+1.03	9	39	+10
Indianapolis_AP	59	28	40	-12	1.30	5		2.83	+1.00	7	43	+4
Indianapolis_SE	57	25	38	-13	1.41	5		3.55	+1.76	7	39	+4
Tipton_Ag	53	23	37	-11	1.51	4	43	2.24	+0.32	6	34	+16
East Central(6)												
Farmland	53	22	37	-11	1.73	4	40	2.50	+0.73	6	24	+8
New_Castle	54	25	38	-11	1.70	3		2.89	+0.92	5	38	+20
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	67	26	45	-11	1.93	4		3.10	+1.10	6	59	-20
Freelandville	64	28	41	-12	1.14	4		1.88	+0.03	6	52	-1
Shoals	65	21	41	-13	1.78	4		4.37	+2.35	6	46	-6
Stendal	67	27	43	-11	1.84	4		3.87	+1.67	6	64	+1
Vincennes_5NE	62	25	42	-11	1.25	4	43	2.21	+0.36	6	43	-10
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	60	24	42	-11	2.03	4		4.30	+1.97	6	58	+3
Oolitic	63	23	39	-13	1.50	4	43	3.26	+1.28	6	40	-3
Tell_City	63	32	45	-10	1.96	3		3.00	+0.59	6	61	-9
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	58	26	40	-10	1.44	3		2.29	+0.43	5	55	+27
Greensburg	60	27	40	-11	1.49	4		2.74	+0.77	6	55	+19
Scottsburg	64	22	41	-13	2.01	4		3.95	+1.84	6	51	-2

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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Perspective on Planting Dates & Corn Yield Potential (Continued)

So what's the deal? Why do agronomists preach about the importance of timely planting and yet the statewide statistical data do not appear to substantiate this importance? Let me try to explain.

The reality is that corn grain yield potential does indeed decline, on average, by one to two bushels per acre per day of delayed planting after about May 10. That means, for example, that corn planted on May 30 would be expected to yield from 20 to 40 bushels less than corn planted before May 10. Delayed planting beyond early May will typically result in lower corn yields because of a number of factors, including a shorter growing season, insect & disease pressure, and moisture stress during pollination. Indeed, the data in Fig. 1 show that the four years with the greatest delay in planting at least 50% of the crop were years with yields significantly lower than trend.

The good news is that planting date is but one of many yield influencing factors (YIFs) for corn. All of the other YIFs interact with planting date to determine the overall yield potential for any given year. In other words, although we know that early-planted corn will usually yield more than later-planted corn, the exact or absolute yield level is dependent on a host of other YIFs. Therefore, it is possible for early-planted corn in one year to yield more than, less than, or equal to later-planted corn in another year depending on the exact mix of YIFs for each year. That is the reason why statewide average corn grain yields frequently vary by plus or minus 10% from the expected trend yield from year to year.

For example, the crop years 1997 and 2000 represent early and late planting dates in Indiana. The date by which half of the state's corn crop was planted in 1997 and 2000 was May 3 and May 17, respectively. Yet, the earlier planted 1997 crop yielded 8.2%

BELOW trend yield for that year and the later planted 2000 crop yielded 5.8% ABOVE trend yield according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Why? Different YIFs in different years.

Bottom Line: Don't get carried away about the influence of planting date on total corn production. Mudding in "a crop early to avoid planting late will almost always end up being an unwise decision. While important, planting date is only one of many yield-influencing factors for corn.

Related References

USDA-NASS. 2007. Crop Progress (9 Apr). USDA-NASS, Washington, D.C. [On-Line]. Available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/CropProg/CropProg-04-09-2007.pdf>. (URL verified 4/11/07).

For other Corny News Network articles, browse through the CNN Archives at <http://www.kingcorn.org/news/archive.html>.

For other information about corn, take a look at the Corn Growers' Guidebook at <http://www.kingcorn.org>.

If you would like to receive Corny News Network articles and other corny information by email, contact R.L. (Bob) Nielsen. Other Corny News Network articles can be viewed at the CNN Archives. Published 11 Apr 2007.

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