



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 2

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Harvesting of early maturing corn fields was gaining momentum last week, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Most of the corn harvest was occurring in the southwestern region of the state. Farmers were making final preparation to harvesting equipment and grain bins. Yellowing of soybean leaves is evident in many fields around the state. Seed corn and silage continues to be harvested. Hay crops have benefitted from the recent precipitation in many northern areas.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 6.3 **days suitable for field work**. **Corn condition** is rated 44 percent good to excellent compared with 71 percent last year at this time. Ninety-eight percent of the corn acreage is in the **dough** stage compared with 95 percent last year and 93 percent for the average. Seventy-nine percent of the corn acreage is now **dented** compared with 70 percent last year and 62 percent for the 5-year average. Twenty-five percent of the corn acreage is **mature** compared with 9 percent last year and 12 percent for the average. **Soybean condition** is rated 43 percent good to excellent compared with 73 percent last year at this time. Twenty percent **soybean** acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 5 percent last year and 12 percent for the 5-year average.

Third cutting of **alfalfa hay** is 82 percent complete compared with 90 percent last year and 82 percent for the 5-year average. Some farmers have begun fourth cuttings of alfalfa. Major activities during the week included: harvesting seed corn and silage, moving grain to market, preparing grain bins and equipment for harvest.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 2% excellent, 7% good, 22% fair, 24% poor, and 45% very poor. Pastures are in very poor condition in the southern region. However, cooler weekend temperatures have slightly improved pastures in some northern areas and have helped livestock.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn in Dough	98	93	95	93
Corn in Dent	79	60	70	62
Corn Mature	25	10	9	12
Corn Harvested	1	NA	0	0
Soybeans Shedding Lvs	20	9	5	12
Alfalfa Third Cutting	82	70	90	82

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	8	14	34	37	7
Soybean	7	14	36	37	6
Pasture	45	24	22	7	2

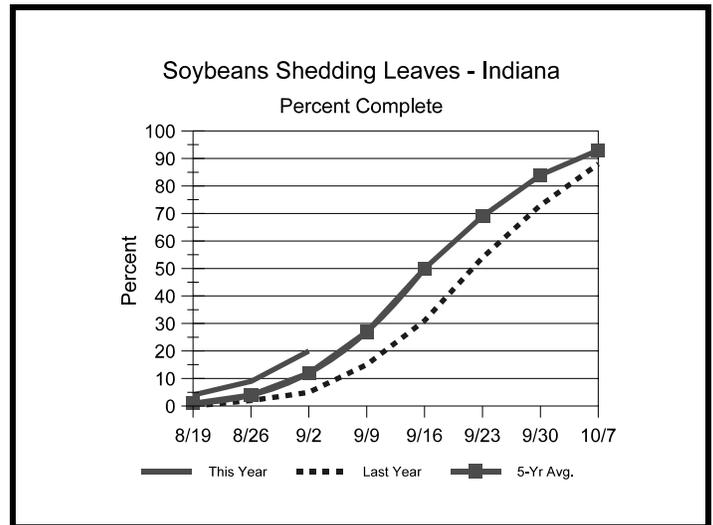
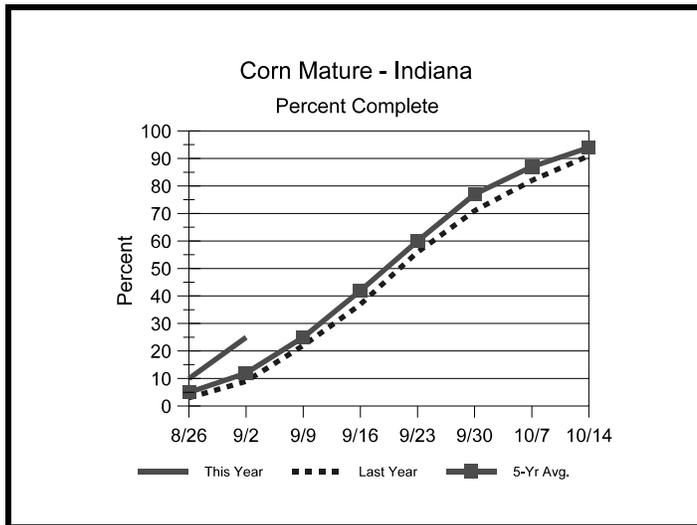
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	37	32	1
Short	24	22	7
Adequate	37	37	77
Surplus	2	9	15
Subsoil			
Very Short	37	31	3
Short	28	30	11
Adequate	33	34	79
Surplus	2	5	7
Days Suitable	6.3	4.7	3.3

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Hybrid Selection: Where's the Beef?

Published 28 Aug 2007

I can remember the excitement as a kid when the first Christmas mail-order catalogs would arrive in the mail from Sears, JC Penney, or Montgomery Ward. I think some of that excitement lingers today when the seed corn company sales literature arrives in the mail or when I attend a seed company field day in late August or early September and listen to the enthusiastic sales pitches. All the hopes of a record, bin-busting crop for next year are represented in those glossy multi-color pages that extol the virtues of the latest and greatest hybrids with every imaginable biotech trait that promise to beat last year's hybrid performance by 20 or more bushels per acre.

The reality of hybrid selection today is that pressure to place seed orders comes earlier and earlier than ever before. In the "old days", a guy would wait until January or February to place a seed order. By then, you would have had the time to peruse yield reports from your local land-grant university variety trials or those from the seed companies to identify the hybrids you wanted to purchase. Today, more and more sales pressure occurs before the current year's variety trials have even been harvested. What's a guy to do?

Documented CONSISTENCY in yield performance is still the key to success in selecting hybrids that will perform well in your farming operation. Sales pitches at field days or in farm magazine advertisements should serve only to heighten your awareness of seed companies, their hybrid traits, or specific hybrids and should NOT take the place of meaningful yield data from well-designed hybrid performance trials.

When you are pressured to choose this hybrid or that one because the sales rep assures you it will perform well, don't hesitate to ask for the performance data that backs up the recommendation. Be like the little old lady in the 1984 Wendy's™ hamburger TV

commercial who demands to know "Where's the beef?".

Even though you are making hybrid selection decisions in August or September, take the time to peruse the results of variety trials from the previous year. Except for the newest of hybrids, performance data from the previous year are useful for identifying consistent performers for your operation next year.

How do you identify CONSISTENT performers that will likely perform well for you? The secret lies in looking for trials that evaluate hybrids over multiple locations. Multiple testing locations in a single year represent possible weather patterns your farm may encounter in the future. Weather variability influences hybrid performance more than any other variable, because weather interacts with most of the other yield limiting factors. If a hybrid performs CONSISTENTLY well over many sites (i.e., weather patterns), then it will likely perform well on your farm in the future.

(Please, re-read the last paragraph. Its message is the most important one in this article!)

Most university hybrid performance programs evaluate hybrids over multiple locations plus multiple years within select maturity zones. Several third-party testing groups also evaluate hybrids over multiple sites. Seed companies obviously evaluate hybrids over hundreds if not thousands of sites each year. Seek out summaries over many locations and avoid concentrating on single site results.

For multiple site trials where the data have been statistically analyzed, CONSISTENT performers are mostly likely found within the upper group of similar-yielding hybrids as determined by a trial's L.S.D. value.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday September 2, 2007

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2007 thru September 2, 2007				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
							Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	94	51	70	+0	0.00	0		18.35	-1.03	44	2749	+154
Francesville	90	53	70	+2	0.00	0		23.37	+4.02	51	2608	+214
Valparaiso_AP_I	89	53	69	+1	0.00	0		17.15	-2.98	43	2695	+324
Wanatah	90	49	68	+1	0.00	0	76	22.17	+2.58	54	2492	+223
Winamac	91	54	70	+3	0.13	1	74	23.22	+3.87	54	2629	+235
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	90	53	70	+2	0.13	1		25.28	+5.75	60	2556	+46
South_Bend	89	54	71	+3	0.00	0		22.09	+3.21	49	2741	+381
Young_America	94	53	71	+2	0.00	0		15.84	-2.70	53	2757	+295
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	91	51	69	+2	0.00	0	72	15.90	-2.73	57	2568	+318
Fort_Wayne	92	52	70	+1	0.00	0		19.22	+1.79	54	2782	+317
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	94	51	71	-2	0.20	1		16.90	-4.88	46	2776	+5
Perrysville	96	50	72	+3	0.00	0	82	15.19	-5.56	44	3019	+435
Spencer_Ag	95	55	73	+4	0.00	0		20.25	-2.07	44	2895	+282
Terre_Haute_AFB	95	49	73	+2	0.00	0		16.79	-3.83	45	3050	+295
W_Lafayette_6NW	94	50	70	+2	0.26	1	77	19.19	-0.13	50	2811	+361
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	94	57	74	+3	0.00	0		14.13	-5.37	49	3200	+466
Greenfield	95	54	72	+2	0.00	0		14.75	-6.67	58	2922	+301
Indianapolis_AP	95	59	75	+5	0.00	0		13.06	-6.44	46	3255	+521
Indianapolis_SE	94	53	72	+2	0.00	0		16.37	-3.75	50	2922	+202
Tipton_Ag	93	52	70	+2	0.25	1	75	16.20	-3.43	56	2719	+338
East Central(6)												
Farmland	93	50	69	+2	0.51	2	72	17.29	-1.74	55	2641	+316
New_Castle	92	51	69	+1	0.00	0		15.69	-4.95	43	2695	+313
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	99	57	78	+5	0.11	1		12.02	-7.59	41	3591	+421
Freelandville	94	56	74	+3	0.00	0		15.73	-4.72	44	3228	+382
Shoals	99	53	75	+4	0.00	0		16.33	-5.88	40	3043	+288
Stendal	98	57	78	+6	0.00	0		14.82	-7.23	46	3574	+584
Vincennes_5NE	98	57	76	+5	0.07	1	85	17.50	-2.95	46	3369	+523
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	95	59	76	+6	0.04	1		16.41	-6.36	52	3306	+565
Oolitic	98	57	75	+5	0.00	0	81	14.03	-7.41	39	2999	+363
Tell_City	96	62	78	+5	0.26	2		18.30	-4.22	36	3510	+469
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	99	54	75	+5	0.10	1		12.35	-8.46	37	3085	+582
Greensburg	98	56	75	+5	0.00	0		14.72	-6.20	44	3115	+560
Scottsburg	99	54	74	+3	0.37	1		17.73	-3.40	42	3168	+336

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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Hybrid Selection: Where's the Beef? (Continued)

For multiple site trials for which statistical analysis of the data has not been performed, you can identify CONSISTENT performers by evaluating hybrid performance relative to the average yield of the trial or relative to the maximum yielding hybrid in a trial.

- For example, look for those hybrids that CONSISTENTLY yield 5% above the average yield of trials in which they are entered. If the trial average yield is 180 bpa, look for hybrids yielding 189 bpa or greater (180×1.05).
- Another way to look for CONSISTENT performers is to identify hybrids that CONSISTENTLY yield at least 90% of the maximum yielding hybrid in a trial. If the highest yield in a trial is 225 bpa, look for hybrids that yield 203 bpa or greater (225×0.90).

Remember, the key factor in choosing hybrids for your farming operation next year is documented performance against a range of competitors, not simply specific head-to-head comparisons. Once you have identified a group of otherwise CONSISTENT high-yielding hybrids, further filter them for traits important to your situation. For example, corn following corn demands hybrids with superior resistance to important foliar diseases such as gray leaf spot or northern corn leaf blight.

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