USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 21

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Most of the state received some much needed precipitation during the week, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Harvest of corn and soybeans was slowed only for a short time as dry soils quickly absorbed the moisture. Emergence and growth of winter wheat will be aided by last week's rainfall. Other activities included hauling grain to market, fall tillage, planting winter wheat, spreading fertilizer and lime, applications of fall herbicides and taking care of livestock.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.0 **days suitable for field work**. Sixty-nine percent of the **corn** acreage has been **harvested** compared with 36 percent last year and 49 percent for the 5-year average. By area, corn harvest is 57 percent complete in the north, 72 percent in the central region, and 90 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested corn continues to average about 16 percent.

Eighty-two percent of the soybean crop has been **harvested** compared with 57 percent last year and 75 percent for the 5-year average. By area, soybean harvest is 80 percent complete in the north, 86 percent in the central region, and 79 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans continues to average about 11 percent.

Eighty-five percent of the **winter wheat** has been **seeded** at this time compared with 68 percent last year and 73 percent for the 5-year average. Fifty-six percent of the winter wheat acreage has **emerged** compared with 19 percent last year and 34 percent for the 5-year average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 8% good, 24% fair, 27% poor, and 41% very poor. Recent precipitation and warm temperatures have helped with re-growth of pastures and hay crops in some areas. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Harvested	69	58	36	49
Soybeans Harvested	82	69	57	75
Winter Wheat Planted	85	69	68	73
Winter Wheat Emerged	56	25	19	34

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Pasture	41	27	24	8	0

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	19	34	0
Short	30	37	1
Adequate	49	29	58
Surplus	2	0	41
Subsoil			
Very Short	35	39	0
Short	32	31	2
Adequate	33	30	75
Surplus	0	0	23
Days Suitable	5.0	6.7	2.7

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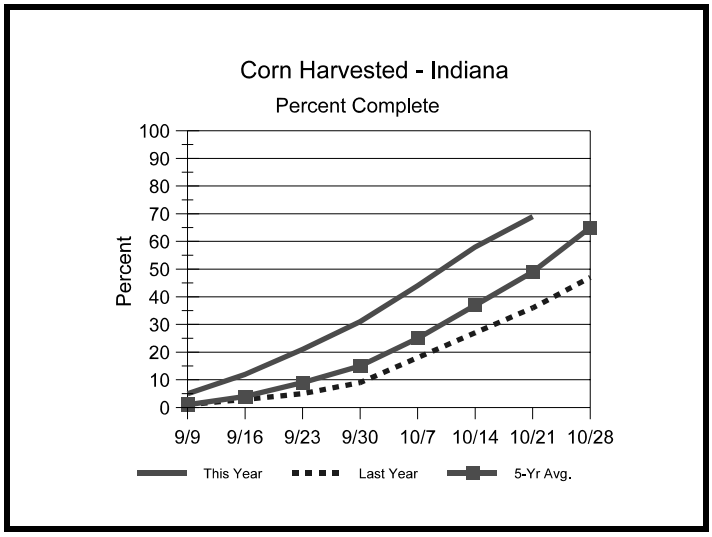
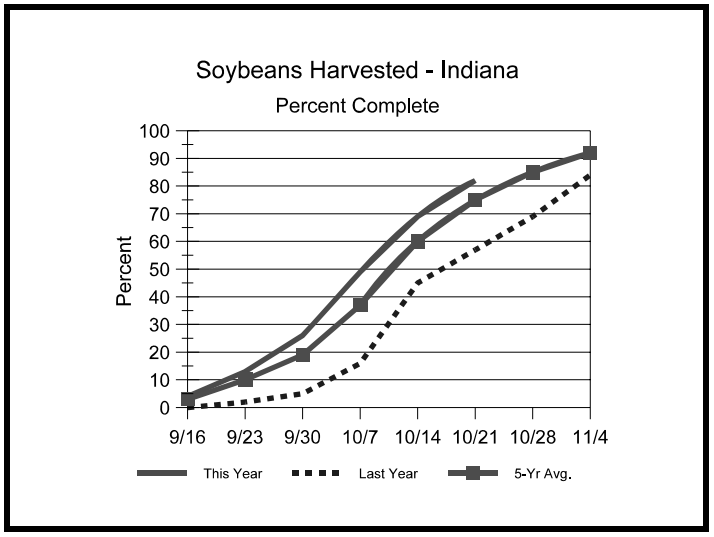
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Fall Cutting of Alfalfa

Many Ohio alfalfa producers will likely take another cutting this fall. The late spring freeze followed by dry weather reduced forage yields across Ohio, so producers are now very anxious to harvest any available forage. While fall regrowth is poor to nonexistent in southern Ohio, alfalfa regrowth in central and northern regions of Ohio is very good.

Unfortunately, cutting alfalfa in October can carry serious risk to the health of the stand, especially this year. Many stands were weakened by the late spring freeze earlier this year, and may not have fully recovered from that stress because of the poor growing conditions this past summer. Only now are those stands having the opportunity to recover energy reserves through the vigorous fall regrowth and favorable temperatures and sunshine we've been experiencing.

Cutting now will interrupt the process of storage of energy and proteins in alfalfa taproots. If cut now, regrowth during the remainder of the fall will utilize those taproot reserves, which will result in the plant having lower energy status going into the winter.

But many producers are in a critical situation with the short hay supplies. So how can we reduce the potential for damage from cutting alfalfa stands again this fall?

A LATE fall harvest is a safer alternative than cutting now in mid-October, BUT ONLY IF the soil is well drained. By LATE, I mean as close as possible to a killing frost of alfalfa, which happens when air temperatures reach 25° F for several hours. This often does not happen until sometime in November in Ohio.

I know that the weather is usually lousy in November for cutting forage, but waiting to get closer to the killing frost will prevent late fall regrowth that "burns up" energy reserves, and will reduce the risk of less vigorous stands next spring.

This spring I observed large variations among alfalfa stands in the damage caused by the late spring frost and the ability of those stands to recover. The stands that were healthy and strong suffered much less damage and recovered more quickly from the late freeze than the stands that were weak. Previous cutting during the critical period of fall growth and the resultant low energy status of the alfalfa in the spring was a factor in reducing its ability to recover from that late freeze.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday October 21, 2007

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	April 1, 2007 thru October 21, 2007				
								Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	82	45	61	+9	1.85	4		22.81	-1.01	58	3504	+323
Francesville	81	43	59	+8	2.25	4		27.98	+3.76	66	3344	+436
Valparaiso_AP_I	80	46	63	+11	1.59	2		20.32	-5.91	54	3486	+576
Wanatah	80	44	60	+9	1.07	4	62	25.90	+0.75	69	3178	+415
Winamac	81	48	61	+10	1.74	4	59	26.82	+2.60	70	3403	+495
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	79	46	60	+9	1.83	3		32.23	+7.22	79	3294	+232
South_Bend	80	48	63	+12	1.69	4		26.50	+2.15	65	3547	+677
Young_America	81	48	62	+11	1.63	3		20.34	-3.23	64	3575	+569
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	78	43	60	+10	1.24	3	57	19.83	-3.71	72	3278	+542
Fort_Wayne	79	47	63	+12	0.64	3		22.93	+1.35	68	3594	+579
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	82	45	61	+8	2.10	3		22.20	-4.94	57	3549	+132
Perrysville	84	45	64	+12	2.41	4	64	20.01	-5.28	59	3918	+748
Spencer_Ag	82	45	61	+10	1.09	3		26.70	-0.42	56	3734	+543
Terre_Haute_AFB	82	47	65	+11	2.83	3		24.56	-0.99	54	3953	+563
W_Lafayette_6NW	82	47	63	+12	2.26	4	62	24.16	+0.25	66	3630	+628
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	81	49	65	+12	1.18	5		17.79	-6.11	61	4143	+787
Greenfield	79	48	62	+10	1.53	5		18.42	-7.76	74	3753	+527
Indianapolis_AP	82	50	65	+12	1.22	4		16.03	-7.87	58	4237	+881
Indianapolis_SE	80	47	62	+9	1.97	5		20.42	-4.07	61	3751	+400
Tipton_Ag	80	47	62	+12	1.12	4	61	20.06	-4.53	73	3524	+620
East Central(6)												
Farmland	78	49	62	+12	1.13	3	63	21.64	-1.95	67	3392	+561
New_Castle	78	49	62	+11	0.91	3		20.42	-4.69	52	3478	+574
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	85	46	68	+12	2.25	3		16.49	-7.78	51	4676	+772
Freelandville	83	48	64	+10	1.74	3		19.44	-5.78	54	4177	+673
Shoals	82	43	64	+10	1.27	3		20.59	-6.66	48	3927	+530
Stendal	83	48	66	+12	1.68	3		20.05	-6.92	56	4651	+982
Vincennes_5NE	84	45	66	+12	2.36	3	68	21.90	-3.32	57	4381	+877
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	80	46	65	+11	2.21	4		20.88	-6.54	66	4271	+898
Oolitic	82	47	63	+10	1.78	3	62	19.20	-7.04	48	3883	+649
Tell_City	84	51	68	+12	2.61	3		23.58	-3.98	46	4584	+801
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	81	46	64	+13	1.13	3		15.84	-9.43	45	4014	+949
Greensburg	80	50	64	+12	0.83	4		18.67	-6.78	54	4056	+914
Scottsburg	83	44	65	+11	1.44	4		22.25	-3.73	53	4088	+600

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

Fall Cutting of Alfalfa (Continued)

A fall harvest after a killing frost is relatively safe IF the soil is well drained and there is no history or risk of heaving on that particular soil. Without residue cover, the temperature of the soil will fluctuate much more, so the potential for heaving injury is greater. This happened in a study at Wooster, when a November 1st cutting resulted in heaving of about 50% of the plants. Where no fall cutting was made, less than 10% of the plants heaved.

Producers often feel that cutting in October has not damaged their alfalfa stands in the past. But how many leave sections that were not cut in the fall to be able to objectively evaluate whether the fall cutting indeed did not reduce yield the following year?

I am often asked whether leaving a large amount of fall growth can harm the alfalfa stand in the winter. The fear is that the alfalfa will smother itself out. I have let pure stands of alfalfa go into the winter with a lot of growth, even more than we see this fall, and I have never experienced a problem or seen the crop "smother out."

Fall management of alfalfa is one of the few controllable factors that will potentially influence the health of your alfalfa stand next spring. It could play a determining role in how much yield you get next year, as it did this spring after the late freeze. If you don't need the forage, walk away from it and let it insulate your stand this winter. It won't smother out because of excessive alfalfa growth.

If you do need the forage now and to get through this winter, then taking a cutting in early November or after a killing frost will reduce the risk of injury to the stand. But try to limit late cutting of alfalfa to well-drained soils with good pH and fertility status. Also leave a 6-inch stubble.

Finally, if you do cut alfalfa this fall, leave some strips or areas that you do not cut within the same field. You might learn something interesting next spring about fall cutting on your farm by having those side-by-side comparisons.

Mark Sulc, Extension Specialist, Ohio State University Horticulture and Crop Sciences, Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N. Newsletter 2007-35, October 15 - October 21, 2007) by the Agronomic Crops Team, The Ohio State University.

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