



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 17

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers were making considerable progress early in the week until rains arrived on Wednesday, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Heavy rains Wednesday and Friday caused flooding in low lying areas. Some corn and soybean acreage will need to be re-planted. Planting progress of corn is about 16 days later than last year and 21 days behind the average pace while planting of soybeans is about 14 days later than last year and 20 days behind the 5-year average. Some damage has been reported to the wheat crop due to wind and standing water. Fungicides are being applied to wheat fields in southern counties. Light frost was reported in many counties with minimal damage expected.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 1.7 **days suitable for field work** during the week. Twenty-four percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 67 percent last year and 83 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 43 percent has been planted in the north, 12 percent in the central region, and 8 percent in the south. Eight percent of the corn crop has **emerged** compared with 33 percent last year and 52 percent for the 5-year average. Six percent of the intended **soybean** acreage has been **planted** compared with 22 percent last year and 49 percent for the 5-year average.

Thirty-nine percent of the **winter wheat** is **headed** compared with 33 percent last year and 51 percent for the 5-year average. **Winter wheat condition** is rated 77 percent good to excellent compared with 73 percent last year at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 76 percent good to excellent. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Feedlots and pastures remain very muddy.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Percent				
Corn Planted	24	11	67	83
Corn Emerged	8	2	33	52
Soybeans Planted	6	2	22	49
Winter Wheat Jointed	92	82	97	98
Winter Wheat Headed	39	15	33	51

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	1	4	19	52	24
Winter Wheat	1	3	19	58	19

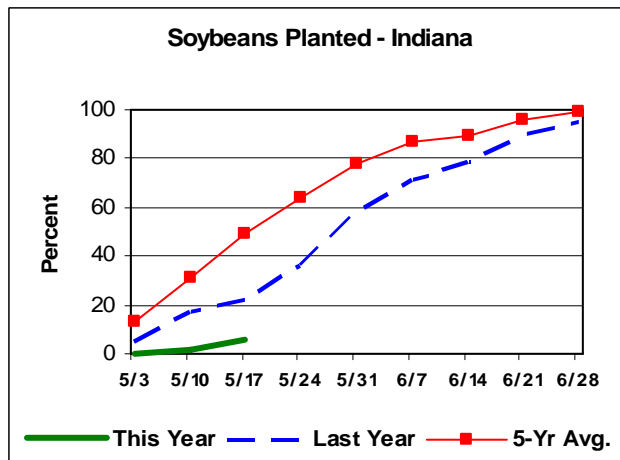
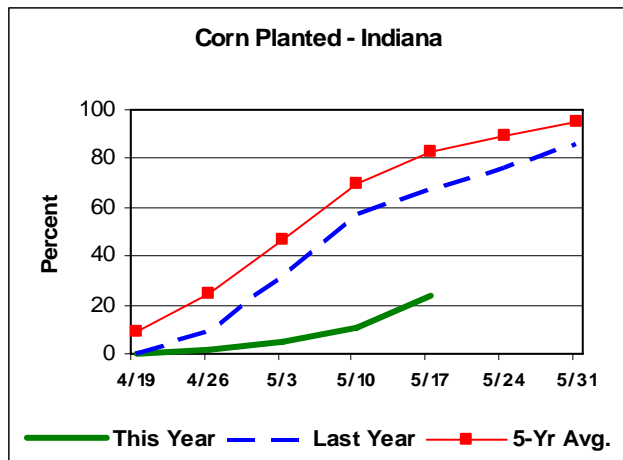
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	0
Adequate	27	38	37
Surplus	73	62	63
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	1	0
Adequate	43	53	49
Surplus	56	46	51
Days Suitable	1.7	1.6	1.0

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Einstein's Theory of Relativity as it Applies to Soil Moisture

Published 12 May 2009

The good news is that Monday's USDA-NASS report showed that Indiana's corn planting progress (the chart showing corn planting progress over select years, can be viewed at: <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/articles.09/LatePlanting-0512.html>) had caught up to that of the same time period in 2002. The bad news is that the 2002 planting season was one of the slowest in recent history. With a forecast of more rain throughout the state the middle of this week, let me offer a contrarian view about soil moisture and planting.

The superintendent of our Purdue Agronomy Farm and I share a laugh every planting season when it comes to deciding when the soil is "fit" to work or plant. We scuff around the fields in mid-April, dig a few spadefuls of soil, squeeze the soil into a ball like the soil scientists tell us to do, and then agree that the soil is too wet to work or plant. Around the first of May, we scuff around the fields, dig a few spadefuls of soil, squeeze the soil into a ball like the soil scientists tell us to do, and then agree that the soil is too wet to work or plant. Again in mid-May, we scuff around the fields, dig a few spadefuls of soil, squeeze the soil into a ball like the soil scientists tell us to do, and then agree that the soil is maybe just about right to work or plant, but we'll give it a few more days. By late May, we scuff around the fields, dig a few spadefuls of soil, squeeze the soil into a ball like the soil scientists tell us to do, and then agree that the soil is just as wet as it was back in mid-April, but maybe we ought to be working ground and planting anyway. Einstein was right.....it's all about relativity.

The point of my sharing this annual ritual with you is that we are rapidly approaching the point in the planting season where we need to "fish or cut bait". Yes, there are risks of working ground too wet or planting "on the wet side" (see additional articles at: URL: <http://www.kingcorn.org/news/articles.09/LatePlanting-0512.htm>), but there are also risks of waiting so long for the soil to become "fit" to begin planting that the majority of your corn ground gets planted way too late.

Heaven forbid that I should recommend anyone to work ground or plant corn in soils that are wet enough to cause severe compaction that will haunt you later this summer. But, you know, when you decide back in mid-April to wait, you've got quite a bit of good planting season left to go.

When you decide in mid-May to wait AND you have a lot of acres to cover, what you save by avoiding some soil compaction now may be less than what you risk by planting the bulk of your corn acres very, very late.

If you concur with these thoughts, "mud in" your corn, and suffer serious yield losses; you did not hear it from me. If you "pull the trigger" now and successfully avoid planting the bulk of your corn in mid-June and win the yield jackpot; then I'll accept all the credit.

There are no black & white answers to this situation, there are no silver bullets, and there are no certainties in farming. Use your best judgement in deciding when to head back to the fields over the coming days and/or weeks. You know your fields and soils better than anyone else.

Related References

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Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday May 17, 2009

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation					
	Air							April 1, 2009 thru May 17, 2009					
	Temperature			Precip.				Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest (1)													
Chalmers_5W	69	39	56	-6	4.03	4		9.44	+3.60	22	233	-57	
Francesville	69	35	55	-6	3.07	3		7.76	+2.18	21	205	-40	
Valparaiso_AP_I	69	35	56	-4	3.09	4		7.78	+1.72	21	232	+4	
Wanatah	70	34	55	-4	3.62	3	60	8.53	+2.72	22	176	-16	
Winamac	76	38	57	-4	2.53	3		7.75	+2.17	24	228	-17	
North Central(2)													
Plymouth	71	34	53	-8	1.95	5		7.51	+1.57	27	202	-58	
South_Bend	70	35	55	-4	2.15	5		6.54	+0.98	21	246	+34	
Young_America	73	37	56	-5	4.43	4		9.48	+3.97	20	251	+12	
Northeast (3)													
Fort_Wayne	73	35	57	-3	1.29	5		7.62	+2.37	23	269	+44	
Kendallville	73	39	56	-4	1.92	4		6.01	+0.71	24	247	+32	
West Central(4)													
Greencastle	78	38	56	-7	4.17	4		14.24	+7.92	24	293	-30	
Perrysville	79	39	59	-3	4.57	4	60	12.10	+6.02	22	315	+38	
Spencer_Ag	80	41	58	-3	3.64	5		12.69	+6.02	26	316	+34	
Terre_Haute_AFB	82	42	62	+0	2.34	5		10.60	+4.19	22	408	+87	
W_Lafayette_6NW	74	38	58	-3	4.11	4	63	10.96	+5.04	24	275	+30	
Central (5)													
Eagle_Creek_AP	78	43	61	-2	2.48	4		11.00	+5.09	25	360	+50	
Greenfield	78	41	58	-4	3.11	4		13.15	+6.69	25	280	+7	
Indianapolis_AP	79	43	61	-1	3.12	4		11.92	+6.01	21	386	+76	
Indianapolis_SE	80	38	58	-5	3.17	4		11.95	+5.69	24	291	-1	
Tipton_Ag	77	40	56	-4	2.48	6	66	11.83	+5.79	26	248	+33	
East Central(6)													
Farmland	78	35	56	-4	1.47	4	60	9.77	+4.16	24	260	+53	
New_Castle	77	38	56	-4	2.88	5		10.23	+3.70	22	249	+36	
Southwest (7)													
Evansville	86	46	66	+2	1.46	4		10.24	+3.56	25	505	+68	
Freelandville	82	46	61	-3	4.15	5		13.01	+6.35	25	379	+35	
Shoals_8S	83	39	60	-3	2.08	3		12.51	+5.50	23	344	+10	
Stendal	85	47	67	+4	1.41	3		12.68	+5.38	24	509	+124	
Vincennes_5NE	83	45	62	-1	3.26	4	67	11.83	+5.17	24	397	+53	
South Central(8)													
Leavenworth	82	45	63	+2	0.70	5		9.90	+2.63	28	423	+82	
Oolitic	82	39	59	-3	4.19	4	64	11.85	+5.20	26	348	+49	
Tell_City	83	48	64	+0	1.27	5		10.88	+3.35	23	457	+56	
Southeast (9)													
Brookville	82	40	60	-1	2.41	5		8.44	+2.00	24	362	+111	
Greensburg	82	42	61	-1	2.96	3		9.80	+3.05	23	377	+90	
Seymour	81	41	60	-3	3.50	4		11.28	+4.85	24	339	+30	

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DFN = Departure From Normal.

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.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com

or call 1-888-798-9955

Spring Pastures Can Bring Bloat

Spring time is here and pastures are growing quickly. With this new lush growth also comes an increased concern for bloat. Bloat typically occurs on young fast growing pastures that have more than 50 percent legumes (clover, alfalfa, etc.). Bloat is simply a condition brought on due to excess protein in the rumen which creates foam that will not allow gasses to escape the rumen. This condition leads to excess pressure in the cattle's rumen and in worst cases can lead to death. Bloat can be a major problem on lush spring pastures, however it can be managed.

The first step in managing bloat is to identify your pastures containing more than 50 percent legumes. These pastures will contain high protein levels especially in the spring when all of the growth is new and lush. Identify your pastures that are most likely to be a problem and use extra caution when animals are on those pastures. If all of your pastures contain high portions of legumes you want to take special care to give animals time to get used to the pastures early in the spring.

Management strategies such as feeding a grass hay prior to the grazing period and not allowing access to pastures when excess moisture is present due to rain or heavy dew will help minimize the occurrence of bloat. Over-eating frequently occurs when hungry cattle are turned onto fresh pastures with high percentage of legumes. Bloat is probable if these animals have not been accustomed to the legume mixture. Feeding grass hay prior to grazing allows the cattle to fill the rumen with a lower protein feed and will decrease the occurrence of over eating and thus minimizes the risk of bloat. Continue to feed hay prior to grazing for 5–6 days. During this time decrease the amount of hay fed until they are dependent totally on the pasture.

Poloxalene is another management option for those dealing with high percentage legume pastures. This chemical reacts in the rumen and decreases the instance of foam and allows excess gasses to escape naturally. This chemical is most easily fed in a molasses, salt, and poloxalene block mix. Allow one block for every 5–6 cattle and keep them in places where cattle typically gather. You may also be able to add poloxalene into any grain mixes you may be feeding. You should feed half a pound of poloxalene per animal.

Finally, the best management strategy will be to check your cattle frequently, about twice a day. This will allow you to observe any problems that may exist. The first visual sign of bloat is a notable increase in the fullness of the left side of the animal. If a cow is struggling with bloat you may be able to alleviate the symptoms by inserting a hose into the rumen to allow gasses to escape. Additionally there are oral products on the market that can be fed to aid in recovery. Consult your veterinarian about these products. If neither of these options work, you may want to attempt to use a trocar or cantula to relieve the pressure in the rumen; however, these should be the last resorts and should be observed by a veterinarian.

Using these steps you should be able to effectively manage bloat in your cattle without instances of emergency management. If questions or concerns still exist call myself or your local extension agent to assist you in your specific situation.

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