



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 27

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers were harvesting some of the early maturing corn and soybean fields last week as weather permitted, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Some southern areas received heavy amounts of precipitation which caused minor flooding. Many soybean fields have shed their leaves and are ready for harvest. Corn has been slow to mature causing harvest to lag behind.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 3.0 **days suitable for field work** during the week. **Corn condition** is rated 63 percent good to excellent compared with 52 percent last year at this time. Eighty-four percent of the corn is in the **dent** stage compared to 93 percent last year and 98 percent for the 5-year average. Thirty-one percent of the corn crop is **mature** compared to 55 percent last year and 73 percent for the 5-year average. Two percent of the corn crop has been **harvested** compared to 7 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average.

Soybean condition is rated 61 percent good to excellent compared with 48 percent last year at this time. Sixty-three percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 77 percent last year and 81 percent for the 5-year average. Three percent of the soybean acreage has been **harvested** compared with 13 percent last year and 18 percent for the 5-year average.

Tobacco harvest is 70 percent complete compared with 76 percent for both last year and the 5-year average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition declined from last week and is now rated 55 percent good to excellent compared with 28 percent last year at this time. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
	Percent			
Corn in Dent	84	72	93	98
Corn Mature	31	14	55	73
Corn Harvested	2	NA	7	15
Soybeans Shedding Lvs	63	40	77	81
Soybeans Harvested	3	NA	13	18
Tobacco Harvested	70	61	76	76
Winter Wheat Planted	2	1	4	6

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	3	7	27	51	12
Soybean	3	9	27	49	12
Pasture	4	11	30	45	10

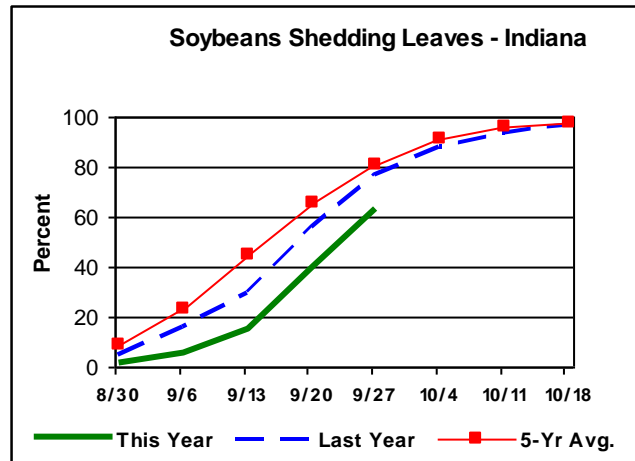
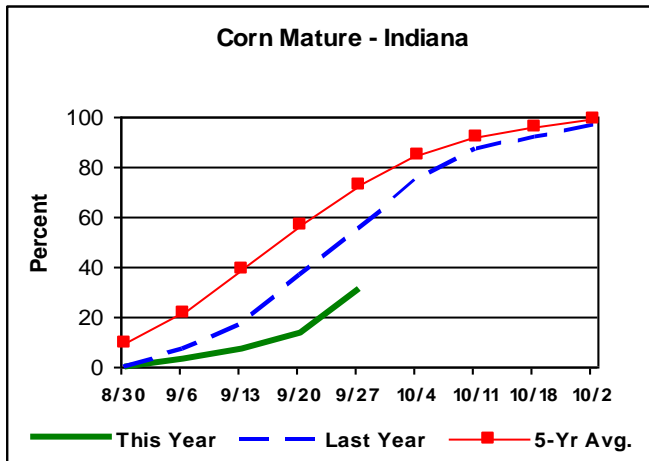
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	9	14
Short	19	36	36
Adequate	58	53	48
Surplus	20	2	2
Subsoil			
Very Short	4	6	12
Short	22	31	32
Adequate	64	62	54
Surplus	10	1	2
Days Suitable	3.0	6.6	6.9

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Liming in Difficult Economic Times

When times get tough in crop production, one of the first things that often gets cut or postponed is liming. However, this could be a serious false economy because liming impacts so many other management inputs and practices. This could significantly reduce the returns on these valuable inputs. A few of the more important impacts are listed below:

1. Low pH reduces root growth. If root growth is reduced, plants can't take up water and nutrients as efficiently.
2. Low pH reduces nutrient availability. Availability of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), sulfur (S), and molybdenum (Mo) are all negatively impacted by low soil pH.
3. Liming supplies essential calcium and magnesium. Fertilizing with Ca and Mg is just as important as N—P—K but it is often overlooked because it is normally taken care of as a side benefit of liming.
4. Many herbicides are sensitive to low pH. Effectiveness of important herbicides like atrazine can be dramatically reduced at low pH.

There are some important considerations that can help in making lime management decisions in these difficult times. Most important is to soil test to determine pH and lime requirement. Don't waste money on lime for fields that don't have a low pH, but at the same time make sure that you prioritize your lime dollars to lime fields

that really need it. Some criteria for prioritizing your liming dollars are provided below:

1. Always maintain soil pH above 5.5. This is a critical pH for root growth for most of our crops. With limited money to spend on lime, at least try to apply some limestone to any field with a pH near or below pH 5.5.
2. Prioritize fields that will be planted to alfalfa for limestone application. The rhizobia that fix nitrogen in the nodules on alfalfa roots are less productive at low pH. This can result in N deficiency in alfalfa. Since an alfalfa seeding is a long term investment this is an especially critical time in the crop rotation to correct the pH.
3. Maintain pH in long term no—till fields. Because there is no mixing by tillage, regular liming is essential to maintain soil pH in long term no—till fields. If the pH in a no—till field is allowed to get too low, it can take a long time to correct this condition without going back to tillage. In an experiment we did, it took 9 years to raise a soil pH from 5.1 to 6.5 at a depth of 6 inches in continuous no—till.
4. Finally, for better nutrient use efficiency and herbicide activity, try to maintain the pH at least above 6.0 if possible. Even if you cannot afford the full recommended rate of lime the next priority would be to get as

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday September 27, 2009

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation					
	Air				Precip.			4in			Soil		
	Temperature				Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest (1)													
Chalmers_5W	83	50	65	+3	0.44	6		20.80	-1.05	70	2583	-413	
Francesville	81	49	65	+4	0.38	3		21.73	-0.37	63	2534	-216	
Valparaiso_AP_I	78	50	66	+5	0.47	4		17.79	-5.88	65	2677	-58	
Wanatah	80	48	65	+5	0.79	3	68	21.67	-1.22	70	2409	-203	
Winamac	82	52	66	+6	0.36	3	68	17.80	-4.30	61	2615	-135	
North Central(2)													
Plymouth	81	52	66	+4	0.34	4		20.44	-2.13	84	2538	-354	
South_Bend	81	52	67	+6	0.31	2		23.90	+1.97	63	2675	-37	
Young_America	82	49	66	+4	0.58	3		20.15	-1.24	52	2637	-207	
Northeast (3)													
Fort_Wayne	82	53	69	+7	0.62	5		21.51	+1.85	67	2794	-48	
Kendallville	80	55	68	+8	0.82	6		19.15	-1.51	79	2845	+173	
West Central(4)													
Greencastle	79	55	68	+5	1.13	7		30.92	+6.11	76	2626	-580	
Perrysville	82	51	67	+4	0.66	7	66	30.22	+6.92	69	2932	-51	
Spencer_Ag	81	54	69	+7	3.20	7		33.86	+8.90	74	2925	-84	
Terre_Haute_AFB	80	54	69	+6	0.31	4		22.92	-0.54	61	3178	-4	
W_Lafayette_6NW	84	48	66	+4	0.41	5	71	25.15	+3.31	67	2777	-52	
Central (5)													
Eagle_Creek_AP	82	56	70	+7	1.57	6		28.77	+6.87	69	3194	+40	
Greenfield	81	56	68	+5	2.13	7		34.31	+10.35	73	2846	-189	
Indianapolis_AP	82	57	71	+8	1.54	5		31.96	+10.06	66	3305	+151	
Indianapolis_SE	81	56	68	+4	1.57	6		34.73	+12.36	71	2847	-301	
Tipton_Ag	84	54	68	+7	0.83	6	74	25.98	+3.77	72	2673	-70	
East Central(6)													
Farmland	83	54	68	+7	1.09	5	69	18.54	-3.08	68	2721	+42	
New_Castle	81	56	67	+7	1.62	6		25.20	+2.30	70	2609	-137	
Southwest (7)													
Evansville	85	53	72	+7	1.76	5		28.77	+6.66	68	3745	+90	
Freelandville	82	55	69	+6	5.91	7		36.85	+13.84	70	3265	-22	
Shoals_8S	84	55	70	+6	3.23	7		35.00	+10.15	66	2984	-204	
Stendal	82	56	71	+7	4.49	6		38.37	+13.63	66	3645	+199	
Vincennes_5NE	84	53	71	+7	5.28	7	76	35.05	+12.04	72	3403	+116	
South Central(8)													
Leavenworth	81	56	71	+7	7.55	7		38.62	+13.50	94	3289	+123	
Oolitic	82	56	69	+7	4.24	7	68	31.61	+7.84	78	3025	-20	
Tell_City	81	57	73	+7	2.83	4		29.28	+3.95	63	3552	+21	
Southeast (9)													
Brookville	84	57	68	+7	2.50	5		28.15	+5.10	68	3063	+171	
Greensburg	83	57	70	+7	2.22	6		34.26	+10.97	75	3196	+240	
Seymour	82	56	68	+6	5.88	6		35.86	+13.15	64	2956	-80	

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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.

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Liming in Difficult Economic Times (Continued)

many fields as possible above 6.0. To determine a limestone recommendation for a target pH of 6.0 multiply the "Exchangeable Acidity" on your soil test times 750. This will give you the pounds of calcium carbonate equivalent to apply.

Be aware that low rates of high quality liming materials cannot substitute for applying the recommended amount of limestone. Products like pelletized limestone and fluid lime are excellent liming materials but simple acid neutralization chemistry dictates that you must apply the recommended amount of calcium carbonate equivalent regardless of the form to correct the pH. The benefit of these materials is in the application and they will react faster but they will not neutralize any more acidity than regular limestone on an equal weight basis. Also, don't get taken in by alternative products that claim to have liming value. There are no products that I know of that

you can add a few gallons of a product and get the same benefit as a ton of limestone. If you have questions about the claims for one of these products check with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry who register these products or contact your local Penn State Cooperative Extension Office.

Even though times are tough and you may be tempted to skip liming to save some money, it is important to think about the broad impacts that liming can have across your crop production system. If you have to cut back, think through the priorities outline above to make better decisions about your liming program.

Written by Douglas Beegle, Agronomy Professor, Soil Fertility Specialist, Crop & Soil Sciences, Penn State Univ., 410 Ag. Sci. & Ind. Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

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