

# Crop Production, 2005

By Adam W. Pike

**2005 Crop & Weather Summary:** The average monthly temperature for January was 26.6 degrees, 0.8 degrees above normal. It was one of the wettest January's recorded with an average precipitation of 5.68 inches. 10.04 inches were recorded in Derry, the highest amount for the state. February temperatures were above normal as the monthly average was 30.0 degrees, 1.7 degrees above normal. It was a fairly dry February with an average of 2.39 inches of rain, about 92% normal. March suffered below normal temperatures as many producers were forced to hold off for the beginning of the busy season. The average monthly temperature was 32.1 degrees, 4.9 degrees below normal. The lowest temperature for March was in Tionesta at -12 degrees. Average rainfall for the month was at 3.68 inches, 0.27 above normal. Conditions for each commodity were doing remarkably well throughout the month of June.

In April, wide ranges of temperatures and rainfall for different regions fell on Pennsylvania. Norristown reached as high as 90 degrees while Coudersport dropped to as low as 17 degrees. Tannersville received close to eight inches of precipitation for the month, much more than Altoona where not even an inch of rainfall was recorded. On average, 19 days were suitable for field work for the month. Producers were able to get three quarters of the plowing finished by month's end. Approximately 30 percent of the corn acreage was planted in April. It was the fourth coolest May recorded in Pennsylvania like much of the northeast region. We also experienced fairly dry weather for the state throughout the month, only accumulating an average of 2.07 inches. 23 days were suitable for fieldwork for the month. Roughly 94 percent of corn acreage and 80 percent of the soybean acreage had been planted by the end of the month. Producers were well into the first cutting of alfalfa hay and had a good start for timothy clover. June was much warmer than normal as the average temperature was 69.7 degrees. An average of 2.79 inches of rain fell across the state as Pennsylvania continued its dry spell from the month before. Most producers finished planting their corn and soybean acreage during the month, while others were well into the harvest for barley. As some farmers were completing the first cutting of alfalfa, others already had a good start on the second cutting.

July was slightly above average in temperature and precipitation. New Park received extreme amounts of rain for the month as 10.96 inches were recorded. Crop conditions, except for pastures, continued to do very well throughout the month of July. The barley harvest was completed, and nearly all of the wheat acreage was harvested during the month. The added moisture aided corn progress as the average height came well to above normal by the end of the month. Warm weather continued in August. However, a long dry spell began during this time. Tobacco and potato harvest had a slow start but were on pace by the end of the month. Peach and apple harvests continued from July, but were slightly behind schedule. Most producers were well on their way to completing their third cutting of alfalfa and second cutting of timothy clover by the end of August. Warm, dry weather continued into September with an average precipitation fallen of 1.83 inches, 2.25 inches below normal. Hanover seemed to have the hardest time during the month only accumulating 0.09 of an inch of precipitation. Corn harvested for both grain and silage were the main activities for the month. Operators were well ahead of schedule for these tasks as compared to historic trends. The tobacco harvest was completed during the month, while producers also worked on harvest for soybeans, potatoes, peaches, apples, and grapes. Producers neared the completion of the fourth cutting of alfalfa while the second cutting of timothy clover was finished. Barley and wheat were also planted during the month.

October temperatures were near normal in 2005 with an average of 52 degrees. However, precipitation levels were more than 100 percent

above normal, much like many other northeastern states in October. It was the second wettest October on record. Stroudsburg received as much as 16.88 inches of precipitation during the month. Producers finished up harvesting corn for silage and continued to harvest corn for grain with 75 percent of the state's acreage harvested by month's end. The potato harvest was completed early in the month, and the soybean harvest was over half way done by the beginning of the next month. November was warm with precipitation amounts slightly above normal for the month. Producers wrapped up their fourth cutting of alfalfa during the month while continuing to harvest corn and soybeans. After a couple of months of warmth with much needed moisture, Pennsylvania's weather changed. Cold weather struck before winter officially started, with an average temperature of 27 degrees. The month was spent finishing up the corn and soybean harvest with farmers preparing equipment for the next growing season.

**Small Grains:** Production of winter wheat was 7,830,000 bushels, 18 percent above the previous year. There were 145,000 acres harvested in 2005, 10,000 more than in 2004. Yield was 54 bushels per acre in 2005, up from 49 bushels per acre in 2004. There were 6,050,000 bushels of oats produced in 2005, no change from the year before. Harvested acreage was at 110,000 in 2005, the same as 2004. Yield was maintained at 55 bushels per acre for 2005. Barley production for 2005 was 3,384,000 bushels, down 1 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage was at 47,000, down 8,000 acres from 2004. Yield was 72 bushels per acre, up 10 bushels from last year.

**Hay:** Production of all hay in 2005 was 3,397,000 tons, down 21 percent from 2004. Total acres harvested was 1,600,000, down 100,000 acres from the previous year. Yield was 2.12 tons per acre, down from 2.53 tons in 2004. Alfalfa hay production was 1,326,000 tons, 12 percent below 2004's production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 510,000 down 30,000 acres from last year. Yield was 2.60 tons per acre, down from 2.80 tons in 2004. Other hay production was 2,071,000 tons, down 26 percent from the 2,784,000 tons produced the previous year. Other hay acreage harvested was 1,090,000, down 70,000 acres from 2004. Yield was at 1.90 tons per acre, down 21 percent from the previous year. Haylage production for 2005 was 2,418,000 tons. Haylage harvested acreage was 460,000 with an average yield of 5.26 tons per acre.



**Row Crops:** Corn for grain production was 117,120,000 bushels. Corn harvested for grain amounted to 960,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2004. Yield was 122 bushels per acre, down 18 bushels from the previous year. Corn for silage production was 6,840,000 tons, down 5 percent from 2005. Acres harvested for silage totaled 380,000 acres, down 5 percent from last year. The average yield remained at 18 tons per acre. Soybean production for 2005 was 17,220,000 bushels, down 12 percent from 2004. Harvested soybean acreage was at 420,000, down 5,000 acres from last year. Yield was 41 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from 2004. Potato production was at 2,750,000 cwt., up 4 percent from last year. Acres harvested remained at 11,000 acres. Yield increased to 250 cwt. per acre. Total production of tobacco was 10,700,000 pounds, up 32 percent from 2004. Total acres harvested was 5,000, up 1,000 acres from a year ago. All tobacco yield was 2,140 lbs. per acre, up 115 pounds from last year.