

Crop Production, 2006

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2006 Crop & Weather Summary: The average monthly temperature for January was 35.4 degrees. It was one of the wettest January's recorded with an average precipitation of 4.29 inches. February temperatures were above normal as the monthly average was 29.8 degrees. It was a fairly dry February with an average of 1.79 inches of rain, about 69% 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 36.8 degrees. Average rainfall for the month was at 1.48 inches, which was 43% normal. Conditions for each commodity were doing remarkably well through the month of June.

In April, wide ranges of temperatures and rainfall for different regions fell on Pennsylvania. The average temperature for the month was 50.3 degrees, which was one of the warmest April's the state has seen in the past few years. The reported precipitation average for the state was 3.40 inches, this was 95% normal. On average, 25 days were suitable for field work for the month. Producers were able to get 82 percent of the plowing finished by the month's end. Approximately 34 percent of the corn acreage was planted in April. Pennsylvania had a cool May, with an average temperature of 57 degrees. We also experienced fairly dry weather for the state throughout the month, only accumulating an average of 3.31 inches. 17 days were suitable for fieldwork for the month. Roughly 89 percent of corn acreage and 67 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 66 degrees. An average of 7.53 inches of rain fell across the state of Pennsylvania, which put an end to the dry weather from the month before. Transplanted tobacco was well above the previous year and the 5-year average. 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. The average temperature was 72.5 degrees, with 5.32 inches of precipitation. 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. The average temperature for the month was 76.1 degrees, which was 2.1 degrees above normal. The state received 1.41 inches of rain during the month, this is 1.83 inches below normal. Tobacco harvest moved very slowly through the entire month of August. Potatoes on the other hand were right on track. Peach and apple harvests continued from July. 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 weather continued into September. The state also got some much needed precipitation. The precipitation total for the month was 5.53 inches, which is 1.88 inches above the normal. Corn harvested for both grain and silage were the main activities for the month. Operators were right in line for these tasks as compared to historic trends. The tobacco harvest was near completion by the end of the month, while producers also worked on harvest for 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 2006 with an average of 53.7 degrees. The precipitation total for the month was 5.01 inches, which is 1.95 inches above normal.

Producers finished up harvesting corn for silage and continued to harvest corn for grain with 62 percent of the state's acreage harvested by month's end. The potato harvest was completed by the end of the month, and the soybean harvest was half way complete by the beginning of the next month. November had an average temperature of 53.7 degrees, which was .8 degrees below normal. The precipitation total for the month was 5.01 inches, which is 1.95 inches above normal. 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 8,850,000 bushels, 13 percent above the previous year. There were 150,000 acres harvested in 2006, 5,000 more than in 2005. Yield was 59 bushels per acre in 2006, up from 54 bushels per acre in 2005. There were 7,040,000 bushels of oats produced in 2006, up 16 percent from the year before. Harvested acreage was at 110,000 in 2006, the same as 2005. Yield was 64 bushels per acre for 2006, up 9 bushels from 2005. Barley production for 2006 was 3,726,000 bushels, up 10 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage was at 46,000, down 1,000 acres from 2005. Yield was 81 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from last year.

Hay: Production of all hay in 2006 was 5,125,000 tons, up 51 percent from 2005. Total acres harvested was 1,750,000, up 150,000 acres from the previous year. Yield was 2.93 tons per acre, up from 2.12 tons in 2005. Alfalfa hay production was 1,500,000 tons, 13 percent above 2005's production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 500,000 down 10,000 acres from last year. Yield was 3.00 tons per acre, up from 2.60 tons in 2005. Other hay production was 3,625,000 tons, up 75 percent from the 2,071,000 tons produced the previous year. Other hay acreage harvested was 1,250,000, up 160,000 acres from 2005. Yield was at 2.90 tons per acre, up 53 percent from the previous year. Haylage production for 2006 was 2,928,000 tons. Haylage harvested acreage was 480,000 with an average yield of 6.10 tons per acre.

Row Crops: Both corn for grain and corn silage remained unchanged from 2005. Corn for grain production was at 117,120,000 bushels, harvested acres amounted to 960,000 acres, and yield was 122 bushels per acre. Corn for silage production was 6,840,000 tons, acres harvested totaled 380,000 acres, and the average yield remained at 18 tons per acre. Soybean production for 2006 was 17,000,000 bushels, down 1 percent from 2005. Harvested soybean acreage was at 425,000, up 5,000 acres from last year. Yield was 40 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from 2005. Potato production was at 2,730,000 cwt., down 1 percent from last year. Acres harvested dropped 500 acres to 10,500 acres. Yield increased to 260 cwt. per acre. Total production of tobacco was 16,240,000 pounds, up 52 percent from 2005. Total acres harvested was 7,900, up 2,900 acres from a year ago. All tobacco yield was 2,056 lbs. per acre, down 84 pounds from last year.