



Wisconsin - Crop Production

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2011 Growing Season Review

After a late, cold start, 2011 saw a roller coaster growing season. April's snows and cold rain allowed little advancement in spring tillage and planting. Frosts continued well into May, as excess rain and unseasonably cool temperatures delayed crop emergence. Despite a warm, dry start, rains and cool temperatures through June kept soils saturated. July and early August brought unrelenting heat, boosting crop growth and drying out fields. By the end of August, soil moistures were short or very short for 35 percent of the state, with the most pronounced shortages in southern Wisconsin. September remained very dry, with lower than average temperatures. An early frost mid-month halted the growing season in some northern areas. Temperatures then climbed briefly into the 80s in early October before settling back to more seasonable levels. In spite of a mid-month snowstorm, temperatures remained above average throughout November. The overall dry, mild fall conditions allowed harvests, haying and fieldwork to quickly catch up to and surpass five-year averages. Statewide temperatures from June to September were 1.0 degrees above normal, and precipitation for April through September was 21.00 inches, 1.33 inches below normal.

Corn

Wisconsin farmers planted 4.15 million acres to corn in 2011, a 250,000 acre increase from the previous year. Of those acres, 3.32 million were harvested for grain with a yield of 156 bushels per acre, the second highest state yield in Wisconsin history. This year's corn crop produced a record high 518 million bushels. Silage area harvested increased 55,000 acres, rising to 805,000 acres in 2011. Corn silage acres yielded 19.5 tons per acre, up slightly from last year. Silage production was 15.7 million tons this season, up from 14.3 million tons in 2010.

The national corn for grain production is estimated at 12.4 billion bushels, up slightly from the November 1 forecast but 1 percent below 2010. The average yield in the United States for 2011 is estimated at 147.2 bushels per acre. This is up 0.5 bushel from the November forecast but 5.6 bushels below the 2010 average yield of 152.8 bushels. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 84.0 million acres, up slightly from the November forecast and up 3 percent from 2010. The U.S. corn silage yield was down from last year at 18.4 tons per acre. Total production was 109 million tons, up nearly 2 million tons from last year.

Soybeans

Planted acreage for soybeans in Wisconsin totaled 1.61 million acres in 2011, down from 1.64 million acres in 2010. Area of soybeans harvested for beans was 1.60 million acres in 2011. Statewide soybean yield was 46.0 bushels per acre, down 4.5 bushels from last year's record high. The 2011 soybean crop produced 73.6 million bushels, down 11 percent from the previous year.

U.S. soybean production in 2011 totaled 3.06 billion bushels, up slightly from the November 1 forecast but down 8 percent from 2010. United States production is the sixth largest on record. The average yield per acre is estimated at 41.5 bushels, 0.2 bushel above the November 1 forecast but 2.0 bushels below last year's yield. Harvested area is down 4 percent from 2010 to 73.6 million acres.

Small Grains

Wisconsin winter wheat production for 2011 was 21.8 million bushels, up 48 percent from 14.7 million bushels in 2010. Winter wheat acres planted increased 105,000 acres from the previous year to 345,000 acres, while harvested acres also increased by 105,000 acres, to 335,000 acres. The 2011 Wisconsin winter wheat yield of 65 bushels per acre was up 1 bushel from 2010.

Nationally, all wheat production was 2.01 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2010. There were 54.4 million wheat acres planted and 45.7 million acres harvested during the 2011 growing season. Planted acres increased 816,000 acres from 2010, while harvested acres decreased 1.90 million acres. All wheat yielded 43.9 bushels per acre, down 2.4 bushels from last year. U.S. winter wheat production was 1.49 billion bushels, up 8.82 million bushels from 2010. Planted acres were up 9 percent to 40.6 million acres, and harvested acres increased 2 percent to 32.3 million acres. Nationwide, winter wheat yielded 46.2 bushels per acre this growing season, 0.6 bushel below 2010.

In Wisconsin, oats planted acres totaled 210,000 in 2011, down 32 percent from 2010. There were 115,000 acres harvested, 55,000

acres less than last year. The 2011 oats yield was 62.0 bushels per acre, up 4 bushels from the previous year. Despite the higher yield, the fewer harvested acres resulted in a 28 percent decrease in production from 2010, to a total of 7.13 million bushels. Wisconsin was the top oats producing state in 2011, above Minnesota, which was the top producer last year.

U.S. oat production totaled a record low 54.0 million bushels, down 33 percent from 2010. Yield was 57.5 bushels per acre, down 6.8 bushels from last year. Yields decreased from last year for Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, the next three highest oat producers after Wisconsin. Harvested area, at 940,000 acres, was 26 percent below the previous year. This was the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

Wisconsin produced 705,000 bushels of barley in 2011, down 51 percent from 2010. Area planted to barley, at 33,000 acres, was down 27 percent from last year, while area harvested, at 15,000 acres, was down 50 percent. Yield was down 1 bushel from the previous year to 47 bushels per acre.

At the national level, barley production fell 14 percent from 2010 to 155 million bushels, the lowest since 1936. Yield was 69.2 bushels per acre, down 3.9 bushels from the previous year. There were 2.56 million acres planted to barley, an 11 percent drop from last year. This was the lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested acres declined 9 percent to 2.24 million acres, the lowest level since 1881.

Hay

Wisconsin farmers harvested 1.15 million acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay in 2011, down 12 percent from 1.30 million acres in 2010. Yield decreased from 2.90 tons per acre in 2010 to 2.80 tons per acre in 2011. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay production was 3.22 million tons in 2011, down from 3.77 million tons a year earlier. Alfalfa haylage and greenchop was harvested from 1.25 million acres in Wisconsin in 2011, down from 1.30 million acres in 2010. Yield (green weight) was 7.00 tons per acre, down from 7.90 tons per acre a year ago. Alfalfa haylage and greenchop production was 8.75 million tons statewide, down 15 percent from 10.27 million tons in 2010.

Nationally, farmers harvested 19.2 million acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay in 2011, down from 20.0 million acres last year. Yield was 3.40 tons per acre in 2011, the same as in 2010. U.S. alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay production was 65.3 million tons, down from 68.0 million tons a year ago. Alfalfa haylage and greenchop was harvested from 2.93 million acres in 2011 in the 18 estimating states for alfalfa haylage and greenchop, down from 3.13 million acres last year. Wisconsin accounted for 43 percent of these alfalfa haylage and greenchop harvested acres. The 18-state alfalfa haylage and greenchop yield was 7.00 tons per acre in 2011, down from 7.38 tons per acre in 2010. In the 18 states, alfalfa haylage and greenchop production reached 20.5 million tons in 2011, down from 23.1 million tons last year.

All other hay harvested as dry hay accounted for 450,000 acres in Wisconsin in 2011, up from 360,000 acres in 2010. Yield was 1.90 tons per acre, down from 2.10 tons per acre a year earlier. Production of all other dry hay totaled 855,000 tons in 2011, up 13 percent from 756,000 tons a year ago. Nationally, all other dry hay was harvested from 36.4 million acres in 2011, down from 39.9 million acres last year. The U.S. all other dry hay crop yielded 1.81 tons per acre, down from 1.95 tons per acre in 2010. All other dry hay production in the U.S. was 65.8 million tons in 2011, compared to 77.7 million tons last year.

Potatoes

Wisconsin farmers planted 63,000 acres of fall potatoes in 2011. Area harvested was 62,500 acres, up from 61,500 acres harvested in 2010. Potatoes yielded 400 hundredweight (cwt.) per acre, up from 395 cwt. per acre in 2010. Wisconsin's production was 25.0 million cwt., ranking third in fall potato production behind Idaho and Washington.

Nationally, potato growers harvested 938,500 acres of fall potatoes in 2011, up six percent from the previous year. The fall potato yield for the U.S. was 410 cwt. per acre. Total fall potato production was 385 million cwt. Total production from all three seasons of potatoes (spring, summer, fall) was 424 million cwt., up five percent from 2010.

Dry Edible Beans

Dry beans planted in Wisconsin during 2011 totaled 5,300 acres, down 900 acres from 2010. The number of acres harvested in 2011 was 5,300 acres. State dry bean production in 2011 totaled 110,000 cwt., with a yield of 2,080 pounds per acre. Wisconsin produces mostly dark red kidney beans and ranked second in the Nation for the production of those beans.

U.S. dry edible bean production is estimated at 19.8 million cwt. for 2011, 38 percent below 2010. Planted area was estimated at 1.21 million acres, down 37 percent from the previous year. Harvested area totaled 1.16 million acres which was 37 percent below last year. Average U.S. yield, at 1,716 pounds per acre, decreased 10 pounds from 2010.

Mint

Wisconsin farmers harvested 3,500 acres of peppermint and 300 acres of spearmint in 2011. Peppermint yielded 60 pounds per acre and spearmint yielded 50 pounds per acre, compared to 52 pounds per acre and 43 pounds per acre, respectively, in 2010. Peppermint production, at 210,000 pounds, was up 3 percent from the previous year, while spearmint production, at 15,000 pounds, was down 42 percent.

U.S. mint producers harvested 74,000 acres of peppermint and 17,300 acres of spearmint in 2011. Yields were 89 pounds per acre for peppermint and 132 pounds per acre for spearmint. Peppermint production increased slightly from 6.36 million pounds in 2010 to 6.57 million pounds in 2011, while spearmint production decreased from 2.32 million pounds to 2.29 million pounds.

Crop Summary, 2010-2011

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Production		Yield		Unit
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	Thousand Acres				Thousands				
WISCONSIN									
Corn	3,900	4,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
for grain	-	-	3,100	3,320	502,200	517,920	162	156	Bu.
for silage	-	-	750	805	14,250	15,698	19.0	19.5	Tons
Soybeans	1,640	1,610	1,630	1,600	82,315	73,600	50.5	46.0	Bu.
Forage, (all) 1/	-	-	2,650	2,600	9,844	8,596	3.71	3.31	Tons
Alfalfa forage, (all) 1/	-	-	2,200	2,050	8,846	7,545	4.02	3.68	Tons
Hay, all (dry only)	-	-	1,660	1,600	4,526	4,075	2.73	2.55	Tons
Alfalfa, (dry only)	-	-	1,300	1,150	3,770	3,220	2.90	2.80	Tons
All other, (dry only)	-	-	360	450	756	855	2.10	1.90	Tons
Winter Wheat	240	345	230	335	14,720	21,775	64	65	Bu.
Oats	310	210	170	115	9,860	7,130	58	62	Bu.
Barley	45	33	30	15	1,440	705	48	47	Bu.
Potatoes (fall)	62.5	63.0	61.5	62.5	24,293	25,000	395	400	Cwt.
Dry edible beans 3/	6.2	5.3	6.2	5.3	133	110	2,150	2,080	Lbs.
Peppermint	-	-	3.9	3.5	203	210	52	60	Lbs.
Spearmint	-	-	0.6	0.3	26	15	43	50	Lbs.
UNITED STATES									
Corn	88,192	91,921	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
for grain	-	-	81,446	83,981	12,446,865	12,358,412	152.8	147.2	Bu.
for silage	-	-	5,567	5,928	107,314	108,926	19.3	18.4	Tons
Soybeans	77,404	74,976	76,610	73,636	3,329,181	3,056,032	43.5	41.5	Bu.
Forage, (all) 1/ 2/	-	-	35,677	33,061	100,240	89,438	2.81	2.71	Tons
Alfalfa forage, (all) 1/ 2/	-	-	14,544	13,822	56,057	52,722	3.85	3.81	Tons
Hay, all (dry only)	-	-	59,872	55,633	145,624	131,144	2.43	2.36	Tons
Alfalfa, (dry only)	-	-	19,966	19,213	67,971	65,332	3.40	3.40	Tons
All other, (dry only)	-	-	39,906	36,420	77,653	65,812	1.95	1.81	Tons
Winter Wheat	37,335	40,646	31,741	32,314	1,484,861	1,493,677	46.8	46.2	Bu.
Oats	3,138	2,496	1,263	939	81,190	53,649	64.3	57.1	Bu.
Barley	2,872	2,559	2,465	2,239	180,268	155,780	73.1	69.6	Bu.
Potatoes (fall)	894	957	882	939	366,505	388,873	416	414	Cwt.
Dry edible beans 3/	1,911	1,206	1,843	1,156	31,801	19,833	1,726	1,716	Lbs.
Peppermint	-	-	71.3	74.0	6,363	6,570	89	89	Lbs.
Spearmint	-	-	18.6	17.3	2,318	2,286	125	132	Lbs.

1/Includes all acreage harvested for dry hay and/or haylage and all production from those acres on a dry equivalent basis. 2/ Largest 18 states. 3/Clean basis. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

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