Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 3

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP AND WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 2005 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 3:00 P.M. EST THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by farmers, FSA and Purdue University experts. For the earliest possible access, look for these reports on the internet shortly after the 3:00 P.M. release time. Our home page address is located at the bottom of this publication. Follow the links to view the text and Pdf files.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 2.2 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Field work has progressed in some areas of the state as weather and field conditions permit. Soil conditions have been cold and wet in most regions of the state thus far this season. Farmers took advantage of the warmer weather and drier field conditions last week to accomplish some field activities. A few fields of corn and oats have been planted. Sign up continued at local FSA offices.

Three percent of the winter wheat acreage is **jointed** compared with 11 percent last year and 9 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 69 percent good to excellent compared with 85 percent last year at this time. Wheat growth and development have been slow.

Other activities during the week were hauling grain to market, spreading fertilizer and lime, tiling fields, preparing equipment, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pastures are starting to green up, but growth and development remain behind normal for this time of the year. Livestock are in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Winter Wheat Jointed	3	NA	11	9

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	12	36	46	4
Winter Wheat 2005	1	6	24	54	15
Winter Wheat 2004	0	1	14	64	21

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	NA	0
Short	2	NA	1
Adequate	60	NA	54
Surplus	38	NA	45
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	NA	2
Short	3	NA	3
Adequate	77	NA	68
Surplus	20	NA	27
Days Suitable	2.2	NA	1.5

CONTACT INFORMATION

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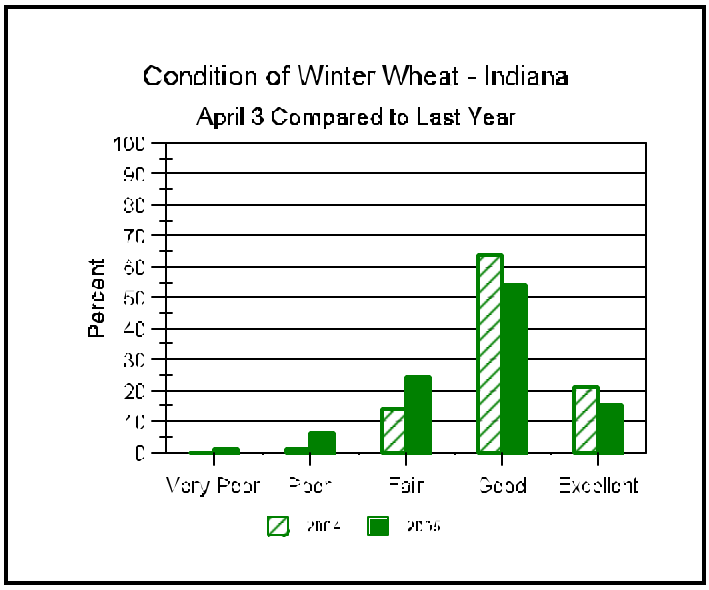
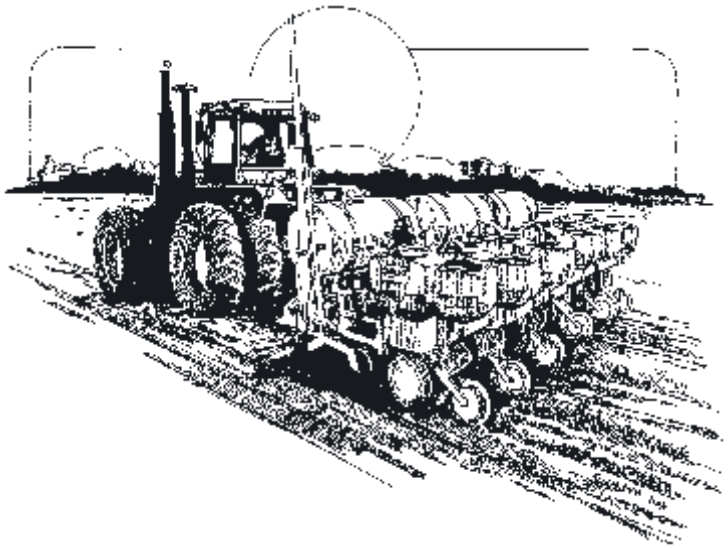
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Consider Risks When Altering Crop Rotations to Avoid Soybean Rust

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Because of the potential threat of soybean rust, farmers considering planting fields of corn again rather than rotating to soybeans should weigh all the factors before digging in, said Purdue University experts.

With the uncertainty of soybean rust, some farmers may figure that returning to corn for a second year will be more profitable than planting soybeans. While this specific one-year comparison may prove true, the longer term corn-to-soybean rotation remains more profitable, said Bob Nielsen, Purdue Extension corn specialist.

"When planting second-year corn, there is always a 5 to 18 percent reduction in yields," said Tony Vyn, agronomy professor at Purdue.

Planting corn for the second year poses many disadvantages and hidden costs, said Nielsen and Vyn. For one, a corn-after-corn rotation requires additional nitrogen fertilizer applications, which could hike nitrogen fertilizer input costs by nearly one-third.

"Nitrogen fertilizer rates for corn following corn are significantly higher than corn following soybeans," Nielsen said. "Second-year corn typically requires an additional 40 to 50 pounds per acre of nitrogen fertilizer, which would be a 30 percent increase in those fertility costs."

The risk of disease also is greater when planting corn a second year. Certain leaf blights and ear rot fungi can be common with back-to-back corn crops. Second-year corn is also prone to increased pressure from certain insects such as corn rootworm.

"The potential for corn rootworm is higher when switching to second-year corn, especially in those areas of Indiana not yet afflicted with the first-year variant of this pest," Nielsen said. "This would require farmers to apply more insecticides to fields, a likely increase of $18 per acre."

Tillage also becomes a concern. Corn following corn requires more tillage than corn following soybeans. It's important to select the best tillage practice on fields where corn is planted a second year because of the need to leave enough surface residue cover to prevent soil

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 3, 2005

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	April 1, 2005 thru April 3, 2005 Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	76	30	48	+2	0.19	2		0.18	-0.15	1	0	-6
Valparaiso_AP_I	76	29	48	+5	0.18	2		0.08	-0.28	1	0	-3
Wanatah	75	26	46	+4	0.46	2	46	0.19	-0.17	1	0	-3
Wheatfield	76	31	48	+6	0.45	2		0.20	-0.16	1	0	-3
Winamac	76	31	48	+5	0.16	1	45	0.16	-0.18	1	0	-3
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	75	30	47	+3	0.36	2		0.15	-0.21	1	0	-3
South_Bend	75	30	48	+5	0.36	2		0.04	-0.34	1	0	-3
Young_America	76	31	48	+5	0.54	2		0.18	-0.15	1	0	-3
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	75	28	47	+6	0.41	2	44	0.16	-0.20	1	0	-1
Fort_Wayne	76	30	48	+5	0.20	3		0.08	-0.25	2	0	-3
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	73	29	49	+3	0.49	3		0.21	-0.15	1	0	-6
Perrysville	75	29	50	+5	0.25	2	47	0.22	-0.14	1	1	-4
Spencer_Ag	75	29	49	+3	0.92	4		0.22	-0.18	1	1	-5
Terre_Haute_AFB	75	30	51	+5	0.41	3		0.19	-0.18	1	3	-3
W_Lafayette_6NW	77	29	49	+6	0.10	2	47	0.07	-0.26	1	0	-3
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	78	34	52	+6	0.57	4		0.12	-0.27	2	2	-4
Greenfield	74	32	48	+3	0.79	4		0.22	-0.16	1	0	-3
Indianapolis_AP	77	33	50	+4	0.50	4		0.11	-0.28	2	2	-4
Indianapolis_SE	75	31	48	+3	0.64	4		0.21	-0.14	1	0	-6
Tipton_Ag	75	30	47	+4	0.53	3	49	0.20	-0.16	1	0	-3
East Central (6)												
Farmland	75	30	47	+4	0.60	4	42	0.31	-0.02	2	0	-3
New_Castle	72	31	46	+3	0.95	5		0.37	-0.01	2	0	-3
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	75	35	52	+2	2.24	5		0.31	-0.11	2	6	-6
Freelandville	75	38	52	+4	1.37	4		0.23	-0.16	1	6	-3
Shoals	75	32	51	+3	1.82	4		0.25	-0.18	1	3	-6
Stendal	76	39	52	+3	1.67	4		0.34	-0.11	2	7	-2
Vincennes_5NE	76	35	51	+4	1.06	3	48	0.22	-0.17	1	5	-4
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	74	35	51	+3	2.12	5		0.42	-0.06	2	6	-3
Oolitic	75	30	50	+3	2.16	5	50	0.26	-0.16	2	2	-4
Tell_City	75	36	52	+2	2.42	4		0.43	-0.06	1	6	-6
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	77	31	49	+4	2.93	5		0.41	+0.02	2	2	-1
Milan_5NE	76	33	49	+4	2.25	5		0.50	+0.11	2	2	-1
Scottsburg	78	31	50	+2	2.46	4		0.30	-0.13	1	3	-6

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
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.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com

erosion but not so much residue that second-year corn yields will suffer.

"For corn on corn, no-till systems are the best option for fields with sandy soils," Vyn said. "Strip tillage works best on intermediate soils since it will help preserve some residue cover and will allow faster soil drying and warmer soil temperatures in the spring. Full-width tillage is the best choice for clay soils with poor drainage."

Farmers choosing to plant continuous corn should take actions to minimize the risks involved. Farmers should concentrate on planting corn hybrids with high-quality early seedling vigor, disease resistance and good overall plant health, Vyn said.

"Farmers should be very cautious with corn on corn," Vyn said. "I'd recommend switching only a portion of their acreage to second-year corn. In addition, it may be beneficial to implement field-length test strips to monitor any yield reduction."

For more information on how to mitigate the downside risks of corn following corn, view Nielsen's online newsletter article on the topic at: http://www.kingcorn.org/news/articles.04/CornCorn-1222.html.

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The Agriculture News Page can be viewed at: http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/AgComm/public/agnews/

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