

2000 Crop Summary: Across the Commonwealth, the winter of 1999-2000 had some snowfall. January was a month of snow for most of Pennsylvania. During the second week of January, a snow storm dumped snow on the Northern tier of counties. During the third week, another system came through and most areas of the state received snow. By the end of January, two snow storms dumped large amount of snow on the south central and south eastern regions of the Commonwealth. Overall, the eastern sections of the state received more snow than the western sections.

During the first two weeks of February, weather conditions were about normal around the state, although we had a few days of cold bitter weather which caused some field activities, such as spreading manure and plowing, to be halted. Daily precipitation ranged from 0.0 to 1.0 inches, depending on the location. Temperatures began to warm up during the third week, however a winter storm covered the state on the 18th with several inches of snow, some areas received amounts closer to a foot. After snowing for several hours, the winds brought in warm air which changed the snow to sleet and freezing rain. At the beginning of the fourth week a high pressure system caused temperatures around the state to rise. Total precipitation for February was below normal in 50 of the 67 counties. The western part of the state was under a drought warning and the eastern part was under a drought watch.

During the end of March and most of April, most of the state received rain. The total amount and departure from normal depended on the area. As the spring progressed it became wetter and cooler than normal, therefore spring activities fell behind normal schedule. Alfalfa and pastures also got off to a slow start due to the cool weather conditions.

Warm and dry weather conditions during the month of May allowed farmers to complete more field work than the previous month. After a cooler than normal spring, growth took off with a period of warm, dry weather. By the end of May, most field crop planting was slightly ahead of the 5-year average.

The weather during the month of June was hot and dry across the Commonwealth. The corn and soybean conditions started off mostly good to excellent, but eventually became mostly good to fair. The small grains matured rapidly due to the favorable weather conditions. Barley harvest began early June and was nearly completed by the end of July. Wheat harvest began during the end of June and was completed near the beginning of August. Oat planting was ahead of the 5-year average and harvested ended around the normal period.

From July through the beginning of August soil moisture was mostly adequate. Weather conditions were normal for fieldwork. Corn height by the end of July was 65 inches, 11 inches above the 5-year average. Potato harvest began in late July and

advanced slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Tobacco harvest began in mid-August and was completed by mid October. Corn silage harvest started by the end of August and fell approxi-mately one week behind schedule. Corn for grain harvest began by mid-September, which was just about normal for that time. By the end of October corn was 94 percent mature, just about normal for this time of year. Corn harvest was on the normal pace until completed in early December. Soybean harvest was underway in most area by the end of September and was completed by the end of November. Fall plowing and seeding of wheat and barley progressed around the 5-year average.

Small Grains: Production of winter wheat was 10,335,000 bushels, slightly above 1999. Acreage harvested was 195,000 acres in 2000, 5,000 more than 1999. Yields were 53 bushels per acre, compared to 54 bushels per acre in 1999. Oats production was 8,265,000 bushels, up 4 percent from last year. Oats acres for harvest was 145,000 in 2000, the same as 1999. Oat yields were 57 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from 1999. Barley production for 2000 was 5,325,000 bushels, up 7 percent. Acreage harvested was 75,000, up 7 percent from 1999. Barley yield was 71 bushels per acre.

Hay: Production of all hay in 2000 was 4,430,000 tons, 32 percent above 1999. Total acres harvested was 1,800,000, down 100,000 from 1999. Yield was 2.46 tons per acre, up from 1.77 tons in 1999. Alfalfa hay production was 2,015,000 tons, 20 percent above 1999's production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 650,000, down 50,000 from 1999. Yield was 3.10 tons per acre, down 50,000 from 1999. Other hay production was 2,415,000 tons, up 29 percent from the 1,680,000 tons produced in 1999. Other hay acreage harvested was 1,150,000, down 50,000 from 1999. Yields of 2.1 tons per acre were down 50 percent from 1999. Haylage production for 2000 was 3,874,000 tons. Haylage harvested acreage was 620,000 with an average yield of 6.25 tons per acre.

Row Crops: Corn for grain production was 137,160,000 bushels. Corn acres harvested for grain amounted to 1,080,000 acres, up 23 percent. Yield was 127 bushels per acre, up 57 bushels from 1999. Corn silage production was 7,820,000 tons, 26 percent above 1999. Acres harvested for silage totaled 460,000 acres, up 22 percent from last year. Average yield was 17.0 tons per acre, up 6.5 tons from last year. Soybean production for 2000 was 16,985,000 bushels, 67 percent less than 1999. Soybean acres harvested was 395,000, up 45,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre was 43 bushels, up 14 bushels from 1999. Potato production was 3,510,000 cwt., 8 percent less than 1999. Acres harvested decreased 500 acres to 13,000. Yield increased 50 cwt. to 270 cwt. per acre. Total production of tobacco was 10,170,000 lbs., down 8 percent from 1999. Total acres harvested was 5,100, 1,100 less than last year. All tobacco yield was 1,994 lbs. per acre, up 192 pounds from last year.