

## Crop Production, 2001

By Stephanie J. Houston

**2001 Crop Summary:** The winter of 2000-2001 had more snowfall than the last few years. The average high temperature for January was about 35.3 degrees, slightly above normal. The average low temperature was approximately 20.6 degrees, which was above or below normal depending on the location. The average monthly temperature was around 27.9 degrees. The highest temperature of the month was in the mid 40's on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The lowest was around 6 degrees which occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. There were about 8 days with measurable precipitation in January. The majority of the precipitation occurred during the second part of the month. Total precipitation for the month was from 1.14 to 2.44 inches which varied from county to county. The total precipitation for the year was slightly below normal. This caused some field activities to be halted. Several inches of snowfall also occurred during the month. Between 8.1 and 9.4 inches occurred during January.

During February, the average high temperature was about 43.5 degrees, slightly above normal. The average low temperature was approximately 26.1 degrees, which was above or below normal depending on the location. The average monthly temperature was around 34.8 degrees. The highest temperature of the month was 61 degrees on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The lowest was around 14 degrees which occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month. There were about 9 days with measurable precipitation in February. Total precipitation for the month was from 1.23 to 1.48 inches which varied from county to county. The total precipitation for the year was slightly below normal. There were about 4 days with measurable snowfall in February. Between 5.9 and 9.5 inches occurred in most areas during February.

During March, much of the state received rain. The total amount and departure from normal depended on the area. Overall, the rainfall was close to normal. The Northwestern Region of the State was the driest.

Wet weather conditions continued throughout the month of April, and slowed field work progress. As for the month of May the warm and dry weather conditions accelerated planting, the growth of crops and the pace of field work. Most crop planting and emerging stages were ahead of the 5-year average, by the end of May.

During the first week of June, the wet conditions held back the planting of some crops. The corn and soybean conditions were mostly good to fair throughout the month. The warm temperatures and rain rapidly matured small grains by the mid of June. Barley harvest began mid-June and was completed by the end of July. Wheat harvest began early July and was completed at the beginning of August. Oat planting was above the 5-year average in early spring and harvest was completed by the beginning of September.

From July through the beginning of August, soil moisture was mostly adequate to short. Weather conditions were normal for

field work. Corn height by the end of July was 70 inches, 9 inches above the 5-year average. Potato harvest began in late July and continued to stay ahead of the 5-year average until completion at the end of October. Tobacco harvest began in mid-August and was completed by October. Corn silage harvest started by the end of August and fell slightly behind by mid-September. By the end of October corn was 97 percent mature, almost normal for this time of year. Corn harvest was ahead of the normal pace until completion in late November. Soybean harvest was underway in most areas by the beginning of October 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 8,320,000 bushels, 19 percent below last year. Acreage harvested was 160,000 acres in 2001, 35,000 less than 2000. Yields were 52 bushels per acre, compared to 53 bushels per acre in 2000. Oats production was 7,475,000 bushels, down 10 percent from last year. Oats acres for harvest was 115,000 in 2001, 30,000 acres less than in 2000. Oat yields were 65 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from 2000. Barley production for 2001 was 4,200,000 bushels, down 21 percent. Acreage harvested was 60,000, down 15,000 acres from 2000. Barley yield was 70 bushels per acre.

**Hay:** Production of all hay in 2001 was 3,439,000 tons, 22 percent above 2000. Total acres harvested was 1,650,000, down 150,000 from 2000. Yield was 2.08 tons per acre, down from 2.46 tons in 2000. Alfalfa hay production was 1,675,000 tons, 17 percent below 2000's production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 670,000, up 20,000 from 2000. Yield was 2.50 tons per acre, down from 3.10 in 2000. Other hay production was 1,764,000 tons, down 27 percent from the 2,415,000 tons produced in 2000. Other hay acreage harvested was 980,000, down 170,000 from 2000. Yields of 1.8 tons per acre were down 14 percent from 2000. Haylage production for 2001 was 2,790,000 tons. Haylage harvested acreage was 545,000 with an average yield of 5.12 tons per acre.

**Row Crops:** Corn for grain production was 97,020,000 bushels. Corn acres harvested for grain amounted to 990,000 acres, down 8 percent. Yield was 98 bushels per acre, down 23 bushels from 2000. Corn silage production was 7,840,000 tons, 2,000 tons above 2000. Acres harvested for silage totaled 490,000 acres, up 7 percent from last year. Average yield was 16.0 tons per acre, down 1.0 ton from last year. Soybean production for 2001 was 14,175,000 bushels, 17 percent less than 2000. Soybean acres harvested was 405,000, up 10,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre was 35 bushels, down 8 bushels from 2000. Potato production was 3,173,000 cwt., 10 percent less than 2000. Acres harvested increased 500 acres to 13,500. Yield decreased 35 cwt. to 235 cwt. per acre. Total production of tobacco was 6,166,000 lbs., down 39 percent from 2000. Total acres harvested was 3,100, 2,000 less than last year. All tobacco yield was 1,989 lbs. per acre, down 5 pounds from last year.