

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's six major field crops totaled 12.4 million acres during 2001, down 1 percent from the 2000 planted acreage. Corn and soybean acreage for harvest was 2 percent above a year earlier. Winter wheat harvested acreage was down 25 percent from a year ago and all hay harvested acreage fell 19 percent below the 2000 level. Oat acreage for harvest dropped 36 percent from the 2000 level. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were potatoes up 4 percent, processing tomatoes up 21 percent, popcorn up 40 percent, and peppermint down 18 percent. Spearmint, at 2,000 acres, was down 9 percent from last year.

YIELDS: The 2001 planting conditions were near perfect last spring in nearly all areas of the state. Corn stands were excellent resulting in record number of plants and ears per acre. Lodging was a major problem during harvest and dry conditions caused low yields in some northeastern regions. Harvest was delayed during October because of frequent shower activity. This was the wettest October on record with the state getting an average of 7.95 inches of precipitation compared with around 2.50 inches of normal rainfall in October. Warm weather in June and July along with timely rains spurred soybean growth and development. The soybean crop was stressed in the early part of August with hot humid weather. Cooler weather, along with rains in the latter part of August, helped reduce the stress on the crop. The late rains helped the pod fill and bean size in the soybeans. In mid-October rain showers moved across the state which caused soybean harvest to virtually stop for about two weeks. Soybean harvest made excellent progress during the last week of October. Prospects looked excellent for the corn and soybean crop. The average yield for corn in 2001 was 156 bushels per acre, 10 bushels more per acre than the 2000 average and 9 bushels more than the previous record yield established in 1992. The average yield for soybeans was 49 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from the 46 bushels per acre average yield in 2000 and 2 bushels above the 1994 record yield. Winter wheat had an average yield of 66 bushels per acre, 3 bushels per acre less than the record high set in 2000 at 69 bushels per acre. Oat yield averaged 80 bushels per acre, 2 bushels more than the record high yield of 78 bushels per acre average last year. All hay yield, at 3.36, was 0.14 tons below the 3.50 tons per acre in 2000. Average yield for popcorn was 3,500 pounds per acre, 50 pounds per acre less than the 2000 average.

PRODUCTION: Corn produced during 2001 was 884.9 million bushels, 9 percent above the 2000 revised level of 810.3 million bushels. Soybean production was 273.9 million bushels, 9 percent above the revised level of 252.1 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production, at 25.1 million bushels, was 29 percent less than the 35.2 million bushels harvested in 2000. Tobacco production increased 18 percent, to 9.5 million pounds. Popcorn production totaled 269.5 million pounds, 38 percent above the 2000 level. Oat production of 1.28 million bushels was 34 percent below the 1.95 million bushels produced in 2000. All hay production, at 2.0 million tons fell 22 percent while potato production rose 18 percent. Peppermint production decreased 15 percent and spearmint production fell 3 percent. Apple production increased 18 percent to 53.0 million pounds. Peach production, at 3.0 million pounds, was 15 percent more than the 2.6 million pounds harvested during 2000. Blueberry production totaled 1.6 million pounds, a 38 percent decrease over the previous year.