

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's six major field crops totaled 12.2 million acres during 2002, down 7 percent from the 2001 planted acreage. Corn and soybean acreage for harvest was 2 percent below a year earlier. Winter wheat harvested acreage was down 13 percent from a year ago and all hay harvested acreage fell 2 percent below the 2001 level. Oat acreage for harvest dropped 12 percent from the 2001 level. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were processing tomatoes up 1 percent, potatoes down 3 percent, popcorn down 3 percent, and peppermint down 8 percent. Spearmint, at 2,000 acres, was unchanged from last year.

YIELDS: The cool and wet spring of 2002 delayed planting of major crops throughout the state. It was one of the wettest spring seasons on record, especially in the southern regions of the state. Many farmers were not able to get their intended corn acreage planted and had to switch to soybeans. As of June 9, only 92 percent of the corn acreage was planted. Growth and development of major crops advanced early, but the summer drought conditions severely stressed major crops in most areas of the state. Hot temperatures and lack of rain during late June and July with several days of afternoon temperatures above 90 degrees hurt the prospects for yields around the state. Precipitation was light in most areas and far below the normal amount of rain received during July. Farmers became very concerned about their crops as drought like conditions continued from July into early August. Rain in mid-August brought some relief and helped pod fill in soybeans and grain fill in corn plants. Harvest was underway during early September in some early maturing fields in the southwestern regions. Crops dried down and advanced rapidly toward maturity. Corn and soybean harvest was in full swing by early October. Farmers were thankful for the near perfect weather and field conditions during most of the fall harvest season. By mid-November, most of the corn and soybean fields were harvested. Yields in corn and soybean

fields were highly variable within and between fields. Yields as low as 10 bushels per acre were not uncommon in some corn and soybean fields. The average yield for corn in 2002 was 121 bushels per acre, 35 bushels less per acre than the 2001 average. Portions of the west central, northwestern and central regions of the state had better than expected yields. The average yield for soybeans was 41 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels from the record 49 bushels per acre average yield in 2001. Winter wheat had an average yield of 53 bushels per acre, down 13 bushels from last year and 16 bushels per acre less than the record high set in 2000 at 69 bushels per acre. Oat yield averaged 62 bushels per acre, 18 bushels lower than the record high yield of 80 bushels per acre average last year. All hay yield, at 2.66, was 0.7 tons below the 3.36 tons per acre in 2001. Average yield for popcorn was 3,000 pounds per acre, 700 pounds per acre less than the 2001 average.

PRODUCTION: Corn produced during 2002 was 631.6 million bushels, 29 percent below the 2001 level of 884.5 million bushels. Soybean production was 235.8 million bushels, 14 percent below the 273.9 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production, at 17.5 million bushels, was 30 percent less than the 25.1 million bushels harvested in 2001. Tobacco production decreased 15 percent, to 8.0 million pounds. Popcorn production totaled 225.0 million pounds, 21 percent below the 2001 level. Oat production of 868 thousand bushels was 32 percent below the 1.28 million bushels produced in 2001. All hay production, at 1.6 million tons, fell 22 percent while potato production also declined 22 percent. Peppermint production decreased 16 percent and spearmint production fell 12 percent. Apple production decreased 25 percent to 40.0 million pounds. Peach production, at 3.1 million pounds, was 3 percent more than the 3.0 million pounds harvested during 2001. Blueberry production totaled 3.1 million pounds, a 94 percent increase over the previous year.