

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's seven major field crops totaled 12.7 million acres during 1999, down 2 percent from the 1998 planted acreage. Corn acreage for harvest was 2 percent above a year earlier while soybean acreage for harvest was up 1 percent. Winter wheat harvested acreage was down 22 percent and all hay harvested acreage was down 7 percent from the 1998 level. Oat acreage fell 17 percent but rye acreage for harvest remained unchanged from the 1998 level. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were potatoes down 2 percent, processing tomatoes up 1 percent, popcorn down 3 percent, and peppermint down 32 percent. Spearmint, at 2,000 acres, was down 20 percent from 1997.

YIELDS: The 1999 growing season got off to a good start with 4 percent of the corn planted by April 18. Rain and wet soil conditions slowed planting and other field activities later in the month. About one-half of the state was showing surplus moisture levels during late April. In early May, weather cooperated and field conditions were ideal for planting corn and soybeans. Hoosier farmers planted more corn during the two week period May 3rd through May 16th than any time in recent history. By May 16, farmers had planted 90 percent of the intended corn acreage and 55 percent of the soybean acreage, well ahead of the 50 percent average for corn and 23 percent average for soybeans. Prospects looked excellent for the corn and soybean crop, but drought conditions during the summer hindered crops and reduced potential yields. The average yield for corn in 1999 was 132 bushels per acre, 5 bushels less per acre than the 1998 average. The average yield for soybeans was 39 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from the 42.0 bushels per acre average yield in 1998. Winter wheat had a record high yield of 66 bushels per acre, 11 bushels per acre more than the 55 bushels per acre average in 1998. Oat yield averaged 65 bushels per acre, 15 bushels more than the 50 bushels per acre average yield a year earlier. Rye averaged 35 bushels per acre, 3 bushels below the previous year. All hay yield, at 3.19, was 0.4 tons below the record high 3.59 tons per acre in 1998. Average yield for popcorn was 3,000 pounds per acre, 300 pounds per acre less than 1998.

PRODUCTION: Corn produced during 1999 was 748.4 million bushels, 2 percent below the 1998 level of 760.4 million bushels. Soybean production was 216.5 million bushels, 6 percent below the revised level of 231.0 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production, at 33.7 million bushels, was 6 percent less than the 35.8 million bushels harvested in 1998. Tobacco production decreased 31 percent, to 11.7 million pounds. Popcorn production totaled 225.0 million pounds, 11 percent below the 1998 level. Oat production of 1.6 million bushels was 8 percent above the 1.5 million bushels produced in 1998. All hay production, at 2.2 million tons dropped 17 percent along with potato production. Peppermint production decreased 38 percent and spearmint production dropped 22 percent. Indiana's fruit crops fared well in 1999. Apple production increased 18 percent to 63.5 million pounds. Peach production, at 2.9 million pounds, was 24 percent less than the 3.8 million pounds harvested during 1998. Blueberry production totaled 2.9 million pounds, a 9 percent decrease over the previous year.