

WEATHER

Delaware's 2009 growing season saw widespread precipitation which caused delayed planting, slow crop development and a delayed harvest for corn, strawberries and vegetables. The statewide precipitation total was 56.97 inches, nearly surpassing the precipitation total set in 2003 of 59.42 inches. Statewide monthly rainfall soared above the 2008 and normal monthly precipitation levels, Delaware received 40.88 inches of rainfall from June to December, compared to the 2008 total of 26.35 inches for the same months. Temperatures in 2009 were slightly above normal, the statewide average temperature was 55.4 degrees, 1 degree cooler than 2008. Warmer temperatures in the spring months allowed some fieldwork to get started early in many areas across the state, freezing temperatures in May caused damage to the flowers of strawberries. Despite the surplus of rain, the warm temperatures aided growth for alfalfa and winter wheat. Hail and heavy storms caused some fields of corn to be replanted. The adequate soil moisture created good growing conditions for crops. An all-time record yield was set for potatoes. Overall, the 2009 growing season was ideal for apples and peaches, reasonable for vegetables, and yielded a good crop for corn and soybeans.

SOYBEANS

Acres planted in 2009 at 185,000, was down 5 percent from the 195,000 acres planted in 2008. Acreage harvested decreased 10,000 from 193,000 in 2008 to 183,000. Yield per acre increased 53 percent from 2008 to 42 bushels, 1 bushel less than the record high yield set in the year 2000. Soybean production in 2009 at 7.7 million bushels was up 45 percent from 2008. The average price received at \$9.60 per bushel was up 2 percent from 2008. The 2009 crop is valued at \$73.8 million, up 48 percent from 2008.



CORN Acres planted in 2009 at 170,000 was up 6 percent from the 160,000 acres in 2008. Acres harvested for grain increased 11,000 from 152,000 acres in 2008 to 163,000 acres. Yield per acre increased 20 bushels from 2008 to 145 bushels. Corn production in 2009, at 23.6 million bushels, was up 24 percent from 2008. The value of the corn crop increased 3 percent from 2008 to \$89.8 million. Price per bushel decreased from \$4.57 in 2008 to \$3.80 per bushel.

WHEAT There were 67,000 acres of wheat harvested from the 70,000 acres planted. Yield per acre at 62 bushels, was down 15 bushels per acre from 2008. Wheat production in 2009 at 4.15 million bushels, was down 32 percent from the record set in 2008. The value of the wheat crop decreased 60 percent from 2008 to \$14.5 million. Price per bushel was back to normal levels at \$3.50, down 41 percent from the record high of \$5.96 level set in 2008.

BARLEY acres planted at 28,000 was up 12 percent from the 25,000 acres for 2008. Acreage harvested increased 4,000 from 22,000 acres in 2008 to 26,000 acres. Yield per acre decreased 10 bushels from 2008 to 70 bushels. Barley production in 2009 at 1.82 million bushels was up 3 percent from 2008. Value of the Barley crop decreased from \$7.4 million in 2008 to \$4.0 million. Price per bushel decreased from \$4.18 in 2008 to \$2.20 per bushel.

HAY Acreage harvested decreased 1,000 from 18,000 in 2008 to 17,000 acres. The 2009 yield increased 17 percent from 2.56 tons per acre in 2008 to 3.00 tons per acre. Hay production in 2009 at 51,000 tons was up 11 percent from 2008. The average price received per ton in 2009 at \$143.00 was down 13 percent from 2008. The value of the Hay crop decreased, 4 percent from 2008 to \$7.31 million.

VEGETABLES The 2009 growing season got off to a sluggish start, due to cold, wet soil conditions. The persistent rain showers hampered the planting progress. Despite the intermittent rainy planting season, the value of all Delaware vegetable production (fresh and processed) in 2009 totaled \$51.1 million.

Fresh market vegetable growers saw slight decreases in acreage and production. Delaware's vegetable producers harvested 10,040 acres of crops, valued at over \$31.5 million in 2009. These numbers compare to 10,600 acres and \$38.2 million in 2008. Production amounted to 2,006.8 thousand hundredweight, a decrease of 11 percent from the 2,254.2 thousand hundredweight produced in 2008. Harvested acreage in 2009 for processing vegetables totaled 31,350 acres, compared with 31,600 acres in 2008. Harvested acres increased for sweet corn, while acres decreased for lima beans, green peas and other vegetables. Total production, at 109.1 thousand tons, was a 13 percent increase from 96.2 thousand tons produced in 2008. The 2009 value of production at \$19.6 million was up 6 percent from \$18.5 million in 2008.