

WEATHER

The weather in 2010 can be summed up as abnormally hot with drought conditions occurring during the critical months for crop development. Delaware's 2010 growing season began with favorable planting conditions. By the beginning of April, there was an abundance of water as many producers saw standing water in fields where they would soon need to be planting their crops. But by mid-April, the dry weather began and continued in the months of May, June, and August. The hot and dry conditions caused stress to corn and soybeans lowering yield prospects. By mid-August, widespread beneficial soaking rains helped with pasture, soybeans and hay fields. Heavy rains at the beginning of October helped soybean yields and pasture conditions. Overall during the fall of 2010, farmers experienced relatively better harvest conditions than in the wet fall of 2009.

SOYBEANS

Acres planted in 2010 at 175,000, was down 5 percent from the 185,000 acres planted in 2009. Acreage harvested decreased 10,000 from 183,000 in 2009 to 173,000. Yield per acre decreased 24 percent from 42 bushels in 2009 to 32 bushels. Soybean production in 2010 at 5.5 million bushels was down 28 percent from 2009. The average price received at \$11.90 per bushel was up from \$9.60 in 2009. The 2010 crop is valued at \$65.9 million, down 11 percent from 2010.



CORN

Acres planted in 2010 at 180,000 was up 6 percent from the 170,000 acres in 2009. Acres harvested for grain increased 10,000 from 163,000 acres in 2009 to 173,000 acres. Yield per acre decreased 30 bushels from 2009 to 115 bushels. Corn production in 2010, at 19.9 million bushels, was down 16 percent from 2009. The value of the corn crop increased 21 percent from 2009 to \$108.4 million. Price per bushel increased from \$3.80 in 2009 to \$5.45 per bushel.

WHEAT

There were 45,000 acres of wheat harvested from the 50,000 acres planted. Yield per acre at 58 bushels, was down 4 bushels per acre from 2009. Wheat production in 2010 at 2.6 million bushels was down 37 percent from 2009. The value of the wheat crop decreased 6 percent from 2009 to \$13.4 million. Price per bushel increased from \$3.45 in 2009 to \$5.15 per bushel.

BARLEY

Acres planted at 20,000 was down 29 percent from the 28,000 acres in 2009. Acreage harvested decreased 8,000 from 26,000 acres in 2009 to 18,000 acres. Yield per acre decreased 6 bushels from 2009 to 64 bushels. Barley production in 2010 at 1.2 million bushels was down 37 percent from 2009. Value of the barley crop decreased from \$4.0 million in 2009 to \$2.5 million. Price per bushel increased from \$2.15 in 2009 to \$2.20 per bushel.

HAY

Acreage harvested decreased 2,000 from 17,000 in 2009 to 15,000 acres. The 2010 yield increased 2 percent from 3.00 tons per acre in 2009 to 3.07 tons per acre. Hay production in 2010 at 46,000 tons was down 10 percent from 2009. The average price received per ton in 2010 at \$152.00 was up 5 percent from 2009. The value of the hay crop decreased 6 percent from 2009 to \$7.0 million.

VEGETABLES

The 2010 growing season was very hot and dry which caused low yields for some Delaware growers. Growers were also adversely impacted by the brown marmorated stink bug. The value of all Delaware vegetable production (fresh and processed) in 2010 totaled \$52.4 million, down from \$52.8 million in 2009.

Fresh market vegetable producers harvested 10,710 acres of fresh market crops valued at 33.3 million in 2010. These numbers compare to 10,470 acres and \$33.2 million in 2009. Production amounted to 2,062.9 thousand hundredweight, virtually unchanged from the 2,058.5 thousand hundredweight produced in 2009. Harvested acreage in 2010 for processing vegetables totaled 30,800 acres, compared with 31,400 acres in 2009. Harvested acres increased considerably for lima beans, while acres decreased for sweet corn and green peas. Total processing vegetable production at 88.5 thousand tons, was down 19 percent from 109.2 thousand tons produced in 2009. The 2010 value of production at \$19.1 million was down 3 percent from \$19.6 million in 2009.