

CROP DEVELOPMENT 2003

Most of Illinois had adequate soil moisture through the early Spring of 2003. Corn planting proceeded ahead of normal through April and into early May. In the middle of May, widespread rains slowed corn planting to a nearly normal pace, caused some replanting of corn, and caused soybean planting to lag behind the five-year average pace. Soil moisture levels stayed mostly adequate through June and July but the state began to dry out through August. The Labor Day weekend brought rain across Illinois and replenished soil moisture.

The crop production index for 2003 was up 5 points from the previous year to 129 percent of the 1977 base. Record high corn yields and production offset lower than average soybean production. Corn production totaled 1.812 billion bushels in 2003, 23 percent more than the previous year. The final yield was 164 bushels per acre, 29 bushels above the previous year and 8 bushels above the previous record yield set in 1994. The yield for the 2003 soybean crop was 36.5 bushels per acre, 6.5 bushels below the 2002 yield. Production totaled 374.1 million bushels, 18 percent below the previous year. Soybean yields were lower than in recent years due to a late planting season, high populations of aphids, and extended dry periods during the month of August.

The 2003 yield for sorghum for grain was 82 bushels, one bushel below the yield in 2002. Production, at 8.61 million bushels, was up 36 percent from the previous year. The yield for the 2003 winter wheat crop set a record high at 65 bushels per acre, up 16 bushels from the previous year. Total production was 52.65 million bushels, a 71 percent increase from the 2002 production of 30.9 million bushels. The oats estimate for 2003 placed the production at 4.45 million bushels, 35 percent above the 2002 production. The oats yield, at 89 bushels per acre, was 16 bushels above the previous year. Production of all hay in 2003 was 2.72 million tons, 18 percent above the previous year. Alfalfa hay production was up 8 percent to 1.74 million tons whereas all other hay production increased 43 percent to 980 thousand tons. Yields were up for both, with alfalfa increasing from 3.6 to 4.1 tons per acre and all other hay increasing from 2.1 to 2.8 tons per acre.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX, 1973-2003

Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/
1973	83	1983	66	1993	112
1974	68	1984	97	1994	136
1975	100	1985	120	1995	102
1976	95	1986	112	1996	118
1977	100	1987	99	1997	121
1978	97	1988	66	1998	127
1979	114	1989	110	1999	124
1980	92	1990	109	2000	133
1981	113	1991	99	2001	134
1982	115	1992	128	2002	124
				2003	129

1/ 1977=100.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX

1973-2003 (1977=100)



