



National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

United States Department of Agriculture



Illinois Department  
of Agriculture

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Dear Friend:

We are happy to bring you another edition of the *Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Bulletin*. This annual bulletin represents the efforts of a large number of people all around Illinois and serves as a historical document which recaps the results from a multitude of surveys during the previous year. The basic information is supplied voluntarily by thousands of grain farmers, livestock producers, fruit and vegetable growers, grain elevators, slaughter and dairy plants, retail stores that serve farm families, and other producers and agribusinesses.

The year 2005 was certainly a challenging year for row crop producers. To recap, crops were planted at a record pace and excellent stands were established early. Then conditions took a turn for the worse as a late spring frost blanketed much of the State requiring some replanting followed by a drought running from mid-June until well into August. These conditions triggered a State-wide drought declaration which was approved by the USDA's Secretary of Agriculture, providing for low-interest emergency loans. So it was no surprise that corn yields averaged a disappointing 143 bushels per acre. Soybeans, on the other hand, seemed to endure the drought better than corn with a respectable State-wide average yield of 47 bushels per acre. To add insult to injury, 2005 season average prices for corn and soybeans came in at \$1.95 and \$5.50, respectively. On a positive note, livestock producers did realize some profits with season average prices for all beef, all hogs and all milk at \$86.90, \$51.40 and \$15.20 per hundred weight, respectively.

Our mission is to **“serve Illinois, its agriculture and its rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information.”** The year 2005 edition of the *Annual Bulletin* will continue to provide over 150 tables of statistical information covering virtually every commodity grown or livestock raised in the State. A wealth of economic data is also included along with individual county level profiles at the back of the bulletin.

Teamwork is important in many areas of life and business. The Illinois Field Office is no different. We are blessed with outstanding players and superior performance. We hope you find this publication helpful to you in gaining a better perspective on Illinois agriculture. Give us a call if we can be of assistance to you.

Respectfully,

Brad Schwab, Director Illinois Agricultural Statistics

