



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 This annual bulletin represents the efforts of a large number of people all around Illinois and serves as a historical document which recaps the results from a multitude of surveys during the previous year.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. Our mission is to **“serve Illinois, its agriculture and its rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information.”**

The year 2007 was certainly a productive, prosperous year for most in the agriculture community and one in which grain producers saw net farm income reach levels they had not seen for many, many years. Facilitating this prosperity was a run up in commodity prices, partially due to the expansion of the ethanol industry and the resulting strong demand for corn.

Overall, corn yields averaged a respectable 175 bushels per acre, 12 more than the 2006 crop year; soybeans came in at 43 bushels per acre, down 5 from 2006 and soft red winter wheat yields came in at 57 bushels per acre. Season average prices for winter wheat, corn and soybeans came in at \$5.45, \$4.05 and \$11.00, respectively. Cattle producers also realized some profits with season average prices for all beef at 92.00 per hundred weight.

Teamwork is important in most 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
NASS – Illinois Field Office

