



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 This annual bulletin represents the efforts of a large number of people all around Illinois and serves as a historical document which recaps the results from a multitude of surveys during the previous year.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 2008 was a productive, prosperous year for most in the agriculture community. Favorable commodity prices held strong through most of the year giving producers the opportunity to cash in and paint their income statements with a rare shade of black ink.

Overall, corn yields averaged 179 bushels per acre, just 1 bushel shy of the 2004 record; soybeans came in at 47 bushels per acre, up 3.5 from 2007 and soft red winter wheat yields came in at 64 bushels per acre. Season average prices for winter wheat, corn and soybeans came in at \$5.45, \$3.80 and \$9.35, respectively. Cattle producers also realized some profits with season average prices for all beef at \$92.80 per hundred weight. Hog producers were not as fortunate and suffered from high input costs coupled with a relatively low season average price of \$47.90 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

