



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
The Illinois Field Office
Cooperating with The Illinois Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 19283 · Springfield, Illinois 62794-9283



Dear Friend:

2012 will be remembered for a long time as the worst drought in more than a generation. Temperatures skyrocketed and rainfall plummeted across Illinois and around the U.S. Farmers and ranchers were impacted by high feed prices, low yields, and sometimes total losses. The financial impact on some farm families will be felt for years.

Our job at NASS, is to measure agricultural production and publish the results so that everyone knows the facts. We have done that, with the help of farmers, ranchers, and agri-business managers around the state. This book, *The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Bulletin*, is a compilation of reports from the past 10 years, and even further back. It provides an historical perspective to put a year like 2012 into context.

At the time of printing, not all of the 2012 statistics were available. Now they are available, for free, for anyone that wants them. State and county level agricultural statistics can be found on the NASS website, or by calling the office.

The state average corn yield for 2012 was only 105 bushels per acre, the lowest since 1988. Soybeans took advantage of late rains and fared better at 43 bushels per acre. The winter wheat crop averaged 63 bushels per acre. Corn silage yields averaged only 9 tons per acre and hay yields were disappointing as well.

Illinois still maintains the 4th largest hog and pig inventory in the country. There were 4.6 million hogs on Illinois farms on December 1, 2012. The total number of cattle in the state climbed slightly during 2012 to 1.12 million head on January 1, 2013.

This publication is made possible by the cooperation of producers and agri-businesses around the state. I would like to thank all of you for your responses throughout the year. The results are used by the entire agricultural community and make it possible for us to fulfill our mission statement to provide **“timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.”**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Schleusener".

Mark Schleusener
State Statistician
NASS – Illinois Field Office