

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's six major field crops totaled 12.7 million acres during 2000, down slightly from the 1999 planted acreage. Corn acreage for harvest was 2 percent below a year earlier while soybean acreage for harvest was up 1 percent. Winter wheat harvested acreage was unchanged from a year ago while all hay harvested acreage rose 7 percent above the 1999 level. Oat acreage remained unchanged for harvest from the 1999 level. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were potatoes down 43 percent, processing tomatoes down 8 percent, popcorn down 27 percent, and peppermint down 23 percent. Spearmint, at 2,200 acres, was up 10 percent from 1999.

YIELDS: The 2000 growing season had near perfect weather and soil conditions enabling farmers to plant corn and soybeans fast and early in the spring. By May 7th, corn planting was 66 percent complete more than double the average pace. Corn planting was virtually complete by June 4th. Corn condition was rated 85 percent good to excellent as of July 23th when 90 percent of the corn acreage had silked. Soybean planting was near or on par with the record pace established in 1988. July was wet and cooler than normal temperatures with some flooding being reported. The corn crop dried down rapidly during late August and September. Lodging was a major problem which farmers faced during this year's harvest. Above normal temperatures helped the soybean crop develop and mature at a rate behind last year but ahead of the 5-year average. Mid-October provided excellent harvest conditions with record high yields in certain portions of the state. Prospects looked excellent for the corn and soybean crop. The average yield for corn in 2000 was 147 bushels per acre, tying the previous record high established in 1992 and 15 bushels more per acre than the 1999 average. The average yield for soybeans was 46 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from the 39 bushels per acre average yield in 1999. Winter wheat had a record high yield of 69 bushels per acre, 3 bushels per acre more than the 66 bushels per acre average in 1999. Oat yield averaged 78 bushels per acre, 13 bushels more than the 65 bushels per acre average yield a year earlier. All hay yield, at 3.50, was 0.31 tons above the 3.19 tons per acre in 1999. Average yield for popcorn was 3,500 pounds per acre, 200 pounds per acre more than 1999.

PRODUCTION: Corn produced during 2000 was 815.9 million bushels, 9 percent above the 1999 level of 748.4 million bushels. Soybean production was 259.0 million bushels, 20 percent above the revised level of 216.5 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production, at 35.2 million bushels, was 5 percent more than the 33.7 million bushels harvested in 1999. Tobacco production decreased 32 percent, to 8.0 million pounds. Popcorn production totaled 192.5 million pounds, 22 percent below the 1999 level. Oat production of 1.95 million bushels was 20 percent above the 1.63 million bushels produced in 1999. All hay production, at 2.6 million tons rose 18 percent but potato production fell 41 percent. Peppermint production decreased 16 percent and spearmint production rose 15 percent. Apple production decreased 25 percent to 45.0 million pounds. Peach production, at 2.6 million pounds, was 10 percent less than the 2.9 million pounds harvested during 1999. Blueberry production totaled 2.6 million pounds, a 10 percent decrease over the previous year.