

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's five major field crops totaled 12.2 million acres for harvest during 2007, down one percent from the 2006 harvested acreage. Corn acreage for harvest was 18 percent above a year ago, while soybean acreage for harvest decreased 18 percent. Winter wheat harvested acreage was down 20 percent from a year ago, but all hay harvested acreage was up two percent from the 2006 level. Oat acreage for harvest decreased 43 percent from 2006. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were processing tomatoes up 8 percent, snap beans for processing and cucumbers for processing both down 6 percent and popcorn up 44 percent. In addition, cantaloupe and sweet corn for fresh market harvested acreage both increased 4 percent from 2006.

YIELDS: The 2007 growing season began with a hard freeze in early April that damaged the winter wheat, hay, berry and fruit crops. Cool, wet soil conditions slowed planting progress throughout April. However, by May 13th, 78 percent of the corn acreage and 39 percent of the soybean acreage had been planted. By this time, planting progress was running ahead of the 5 year average pace for both crops. By May 27th, 99 percent of the corn acreage was planted and 89 percent of the soybean acreage was planted. Soils began to dry out in late May and progressively got drier. By June 17th, 86 percent of the topsoil was rated short or very short. Soils remained dry throughout the summer especially in many eastern, central and southern portions of the state. Hay and wheat yields suffered due to the hot, dry summer weather. Harvest of corn and soybeans began the first week

of September and ran ahead of the 5-year average pace until most of the crop was harvested by early November. The average yield for corn was 155 bushels per acre, 2 bushels below the 2006 yield, but the 4th highest on record. The average yield for soybeans was 45 bushels per acre, 5 bushels below the 2006 yield of 50 bushels per acre. The average yield for winter wheat at 57 bushels per acre was 12 bushels below the previous year's yield of 69 bushels per acre. The average oat yield at 55 bushels per acre was down 25 bushels from last year's record yield of 80 bushels per acre. All hay yield at 2.34 tons per acre was 1.05 tons lower than the 2006 yield. Popcorn averaged 4,200 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from the 4,100 pounds per acre produced a year earlier.

PRODUCTION: Corn produced during 2007 was 987.4 million bushels, 17 percent above the 2006 level of 844.7 million bushels. Soybean production was 210.6 million bushels, 26 percent below the 284.0 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production decreased 34 percent from a year earlier, to 21.1 million bushels. Popcorn production totaled 289.8 million pounds, 47 percent above the 2006 level. Oat production of 440 thousand bushels was 61 percent below the 1.1 million bushels produced in 2006. All hay production, at 1.5 million tons, decreased 30 percent. Peppermint production decreased 39 percent, and spearmint production decreased 13 percent from 2006. Apple production decreased 40 percent to 33.0 million pounds. Blueberry production totaled 1.6 million pounds, a 53 percent decrease from the previous year.

"Bobby's Corn"
Photographer ~~ Brandon Suttles
Age 20, Connersville, IN

