

## CROP HIGHLIGHTS

**ACREAGE:** Indiana's five major field crops totaled slightly over 12.1 million acres for harvest during 2011, up slightly from 2010. This increase was mainly due to additional winter wheat acreage. Corn acreage for harvest was up by less than one percent from a year ago, while soybean acreage for harvest was down about the same amount. Winter wheat harvested acreage was up 74 percent from a year ago, and all hay harvested acreage was unchanged from the 2010 level. Oat acreage for harvest decreased 12 percent from 2010. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were tomatoes for fresh market, down 16 percent while tomatoes for processing decreased 6 percent. Sweet corn acreage for harvest decreased 14 percent, and watermelon harvested acreage increased 1 percent from 2010. In addition, cucumbers for processing decreased 31 percent from 2010, and cantaloupes for fresh market increased 13 percent.

**YIELDS:** The 2011 growing season got off to a slow start due to excessive rainfall. The state average precipitation total of 9.69 inches ranks April 2011 as the wettest April on record in Indiana. May was also very wet making it difficult for farmers to get corn and soybeans planted. Only 59 percent of the corn acreage and 25 percent of the soybeans had been planted by May 29<sup>th</sup>. Farmers found it very difficult to find enough dry days to get early cuttings of hay baled before more rain arrived. The excessive rainfall finally subsided in early June allowing most farmers to finish planting corn by mid month. Soybean planting was finally 95 percent complete by June 26<sup>th</sup>. Harvest of winter wheat progressed slowly throughout June but advanced quickly in early July with some reports of low test weights and vomitoxin in the grain. Temperatures during July were ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> hottest in 117 years of recorded data. This hot, dry weather was detrimental to crop yields as it caused poor pollination in some of the corn acreage and pod abortion in the soybean crop. Grass hay yields were also reduced due to the July weather. Oat harvest went smoothly with fair yields reported. Closer to normal temperatures returned to the state in August, but dry soil conditions continued into September. Many farmers noted that the crops were maturing very rapidly in early September due to the dry conditions, but cool, rainy weather arrived late in the month which slowed the process. Harvest of corn and soybeans began in late September and moved at a slower than normal pace throughout October. Harvest gained momentum in early November with soybeans being 96 percent complete by November 13<sup>th</sup> and corn harvest reached 95 percent complete by the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month.

The average yield for corn in 2011 was 146 bushels per acre, 11 bushels below the 2010 yield. Soybeans yielded 45.5 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels below 2010. The average yield for winter wheat, at 62 bushels per acre, was 2 bushels above the previous year's yield of 60 bushels per acre. The average oat yield of 61 bushels per acre was down 5 bushels from the previous year's yield of 66 bushels per acre. All hay yield of 2.84 tons per acre was up marginally from the 2010 yield of

2.83 tons per acre. Popcorn averaged 4,000 pounds per acre, down 700 pounds from the previous year's yield.

**PRODUCTION:** Corn produced during 2011 totaled 839.5 million bushels, 7 percent below the 2010 level of 898.0 million bushels. Soybean production was 240.7 million bushels, 7 percent below the 258.5 million bushels produced a year earlier. Winter wheat production increased 80 percent from a year earlier, to 24.8 million bushels. Popcorn production totaled 276.0 million pounds, 7 percent below the 2010 level. Oat production of 427 thousand bushels was 19 percent below the 528 thousand bushels produced in 2010. All hay production, at 1.90 million tons, was only slightly above the previous year. Peppermint production of 599 thousand pounds remained virtually the same while spearmint production of 135 thousand pounds declined 4 percent from 2010. Apple production decreased 23 percent to 20.0 million pounds. Blueberry production totaled 1.6 million pounds, a 56 percent decrease from the previous year.



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