

## CROP HIGHLIGHTS

**ACREAGE:** Indiana's five major field crops totaled slightly over 12.4 million acres for harvest during 2014, up slightly from 2013. Soybeans saw the largest overall increase, with 250,000 more harvested acres than 2013, nearly a 5 percent increase. This was offset by decreases in harvested acres for other crops. Corn acreage for harvest was down 1 percent from a year ago, winter wheat harvested acreage was down 23 percent from a year ago, and all hay harvested acreage was down 6 percent from the 2013 level. Oat acreage for harvest was unchanged from 2013 at 10,000. Other crops showing harvested acreage changes were tomatoes for fresh market, down 9 percent while tomatoes for processing acreage was up 7 percent. Cantaloupe acreage for harvest decreased 10 percent, and watermelon harvested acreage increased 7 percent from 2013. In addition, cucumbers for processing increased 21 percent from 2013.

**YIELDS:** A wet April with localized flooding caused planting to get off to a slow start, with only 8 percent of corn planted by April 27th, a time that had seen an average of 26 percent over the last five years. Wheat jointed at that time was at 43 percent, or 13 percentage points behind the five year average. Slightly warmer than normal temperatures, however, set the stage for catch-up during May, which was also warm but drier. Planting progressed swiftly during the three weeks ending May 18th, with 64 percent of acres being planted during that period. Planting was virtually complete by the first days of June, and at that time the crop was rated at 70 percent good to excellent and improving. June brought more warm temperatures and above average precipitation, providing good conditions for emergence in row crops and grain fill in wheat and oats, but was not excessive to the degree where critical fieldwork was impeded. Planting of soybeans also got off to a slow start, but tracked along the 5 year average more closely, nearly half going in the ground during the last two weeks of May. Weekly progress slowed after that point, and planting concluded by the last week of June, when the crop was rated at 70 percent good to excellent. Wheat was virtually all headed at that point, with 65 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, but harvest did not begin until the latter part of the month, well behind the five year average. Only about 30 percent of the wheat crop was harvested by the first of July. Conditions grew drier again during July, and cooler than normal temperatures benefitted pollination. Half the corn crop had silked by mid-July, a few days ahead of the 5 year average. The remaining 70 percent of the wheat crop was harvested by the end of the month, and final yield was a record setting 76 bushels per acre. The final yield for oats was 74 bushels per acre. The drier conditions that continued into early August helped root development in both corn and soybeans, which in turn helped plants make the most of rainfall. This was an actual instance of when the saying "rain makes grain" proved to be true. September was cooler and wetter than normal. Corn and soybean harvest got

off to a slow start in the middle of the month. By the end of the month, about 12 percent of soybeans and 13 percent of corn had been harvested. Condition ratings remained high with 77 percent of corn rated good to excellent. Wet conditions extended into the first half of October, and temperatures were at normal levels. Harvest of both corn and soybeans continued to progress slowly, but got a little help from the shift to drier weather at the end of the month, and were 54 percent and 66 percent complete, respectively, by the end of the month. Reports from the field supported in season forecasts of record yields. Winter weather arrived in November, which was the 7th coldest on record. Though it was drier than normal, field conditions slowed harvest throughout the month, and harvest did not conclude until December. Both corn and soybean yields set new records, at 188 bushels per acre and 56 bushels per acre, respectively. Popcorn also posted a record yield, at 48.0 hundredweight per acre. Alfalfa and other hay recorded strong yields of 4.00 and 2.75 tons per acre, respectively. The peppermint yield was a record tying 60 pounds per acre, but spearmint yield was far from a record, at 61 pounds per acre.

**PRODUCTION:** Corn production in 2014 totaled 1.08 billion bushels, a record for the state and 5 percent above last year's total of 1.03 billion bushels. Soybean production totaled 307 million bushels, up 15 percent from last year's 267 million bushels. Despite the record high yield, winter wheat production was down 19.8 percent from 2013, at 25.5 million bushels, due to the decrease in harvested acres. Oat production was up 30,000 bushels from 2013, to 740,000 bushels. Popcorn production totaled a record setting 432.0 million pounds, 16 percent above the 2013 level. All hay production, at 1.95 million tons, was up 8 percent from the previous year. Spearmint production was 226,000 pounds, and peppermint production totaled 510,000 pounds.



"Just Another Day on the Farm"  
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