Indiana Weather Summary 2021

An unusually warm and dry start to April spurred winter wheat jointing to progress ahead of the five-year average. The end of April saw unusually cool temperatures with an average temperature of 51.0 degrees Fahrenheit for the last two weeks of the month, 3.6 degrees below normal for the State. Cooler weather later in the month made for ideal fieldwork conditions which kept corn and soybean planting progress ahead of their respective five-year averages.

The cool weather in late April carried over to early May with an average temperature of 53.0 degrees Fahrenheit, 6 degrees below normal, for the first two weeks of the month. The continuation of cooler temperatures and the addition of heavy precipitation in mid-May slightly hindered corn and soybean planting progress, but not for long. By the end of May, planting and emergence progress for both corn and soybeans had surged ahead of schedule. Winter wheat jointing stayed primarily on par with the five-year average while progress for winter wheat heading consistently fell behind schedule. Despite concerns about frost damage from a late April freeze, winter wheat was still rated as having 72 percent of crop in good to excellent condition by the end of May.

The late April freeze did necessitate the replanting of some early planted corn and soybean acreage but there was ample time and weather conditions were conducive enough that farmers were able to replant the affected acreages quickly with hope for little to no negative yield impacts.

The month of June broke the season’s cool spell with unseasonably warmer weather. Warm, dry weather helped spur corn and soybean planting and crop development. The planting season for corn and soybeans wrapped up near the middle of June, and emergence of both crops was nearly complete by the end of June. Winter wheat struggled some during June, with progress lagging behind the five-year average for both maturity and percent harvested by the end of the month. June ended with rainfall and heavy storms that replenished soils and relieved drought concerns. By the end of the month, 89 percent of topsoil moisture reported as adequate or surplus.

Saturating rains continued from the end of June into the beginning of July. The wet first week of July hindered winter wheat harvests somewhat, but by mid-July winter wheat harvests were in full swing with drier weather allowing for rapid harvest progress. By July 11, 77 percent of the wheat crop was reported as harvested, a staggering 33 percentage point increase from the previous week. In some parts of the State, harvested wheat was turned away from elevators due to the presence of vomitoxin. While some concerns for water-related damages to soybeans existed, soybean crop conditions remained stable with 70 percent rated in good to excellent condition by mid-July.

Wet weather continued into late July causing some concerns for possible damage to crops in low lying areas. Soil moisture levels were quite high in mid-to-late July with 96 percent of topsoil moisture reported as adequate or surplus. Wet weather conditions further hindered Winter Wheat harvesting progress. Despite concerns over corn denitrification, soybean yellowing, and soybean asphyxia, corn and soybean conditions remained stable and even improved throughout the end of July. The end of July brought ideal field working conditions and the end of the winter wheat harvest. Corn silking and dough development continued ahead of their respective five-year averages. Soybeans were blooming and pods were setting ahead of their respective five-year averages. Most of this year’s planting and growing season to date has been favorable, leaving farming operations optimistic about crop yields.