

# 2013 Iowa Agricultural Overview

## Crops and Weather Summary

The 2013 crop season got off to a slow start in April with frequent precipitation, including rain, snow, and ice. Wet conditions resulted in a total of just 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork in the month. By the end of the month, 2 percent of corn had been planted, well behind the previous year's 44 percent and 34 percentage points behind normal. Oats were 45 percent planted, 52 percentage points behind 2012 and 34 points behind the five-year average.

May began with record snowfall and scattered rain that hindered planting progress. The rest of the month provided dry weather which helped advance crop progress. The corn crop was 85 percent planted by the end of May, 12 percentage points behind normal, and 54 percent emerged, 27 percentage points behind normal. Soybeans were 40 percent planted, 55 percentage points behind 2012 and 43 percentage points behind normal. Eight percent of soybeans were emerged, well behind the previous year's 60 percent and the five-year average of 39 percent. Ninety-two percent of the oat crop was emerged, three days behind normal.

Rain continued to fall in the month of June, delaying crop progress. By the end of the month, topsoil and subsoil moisture levels rated 99 and 98 percent adequate to surplus, respectively. Seven percent of the oat crop had turned color, behind the average of 28 percent. For the first time in recent history, corn planted was not yet complete by the end of the month. With 99 percent of corn planted, 96 percent was emerged, about three weeks behind normal. Ninety-six percent of soybeans had been planted, with 89 percent emerged. The first cutting of alfalfa, at 89 percent complete, was one day ahead of normal.

Farmers endured dry conditions but average temperatures during July. By the end of the month, corn had reached 74 percent tassled, well behind 2012's 99 percent and the five-year average of 88 percent. Fifty percent of the corn crop was silking, 27 percentage points behind average. Sixty-three percent of the soybean crop had bloomed, 20 percentage points behind normal. Fourteen percent of the soybean crop was setting pods, 10 days behind normal. Second cutting of alfalfa was 75 percent complete, only 2 percentage points behind normal. Oat harvest had reached 47 percent, significantly behind the previous year's 97 percent. Despite oat seeding being more than 2 weeks behind, by the end of the month, harvest was only 4 days behind normal.

August received very little precipitation resulting in 28.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the month. Corn and soybean conditions saw a decline due to the lack of rain. By the end of August, 33 percent of the corn had reached the dent stage, almost 2 weeks behind normal. Two percent of corn had reached maturity, well behind last year's 43 percent and the average of 14 percent. Four percent of the soybeans had turned color, well behind last year's 46 percent and the average of 22 percent. The third alfalfa cutting reached 77 percent complete, behind 2012's 98 percent, but right on pace with the average.

Dry conditions persisted during most of September. Corn reached 95 percent dented by the end of September, 5 percentage points behind 2012 and 3 points behind average. Sixty-one percent of corn had reached maturity, well behind the previous year's 99 percent and the five-year average of 76 percent. By the end of September, 5 percent of the corn had been harvested, 2 weeks behind average. Eighty-eight percent of soybeans had turned color, 10 percentage points behind 2012 and 8 percentage points behind normal. Soybean acres harvested was 5 percent complete, well behind the previous year's 50 percent and the average 21 percent.

Rain in the middle of October helped soil moisture levels; the end of the month saw light snow or rain and a statewide freeze. By the end of October, corn was 55 percent harvested, 5 percentage points behind average. Soybean harvest was 87 percent complete, slightly ahead of the normal pace. Ninety-six percent of Iowa reported adequate or surplus off-farm grain storage and 88 percent adequate or surplus on-farm storage capacity.

Temperatures in November fluctuated often, ranging from a high of 70 degrees to a low temperature of -2 degrees. In the first 10 days of November, farmers harvested almost 20 percent of the State's corn crop. Ninety-seven percent of corn was harvested by the end of the month, four percentage points ahead of normal. Soybean harvest was completed mid-month, on pace with the five-year average. Grain movement was slow by the end of the month, with only 31 percent of the State seeing moderate to heavy grain movement from farm to elevator. Hay supplies were considered short across 17 percent of Iowa but 91 percent of the hay supply was considered to be in fair to good condition.

## Livestock Summary

Iowa's cattle and hog producers received \$10.8 billion in cash receipts during 2012, a 7 percent increase from receipts in 2011. Cattle accounted for \$3.84 billion of the cash receipts and hog sales totaled \$6.98 billion.

Iowa producers had 3.7 million **cattle and calves** on farms January 1, 2014, down 150,000 from January 1, 2013. Cows that had calved totaled 1.09 million head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Of this total, 885,000 head were beef cows and 205,000 head were milk cows.

Heifers weighing 500 pounds and over were at 890,000 head, down 6 percent from the year earlier. Of this total, 150,000 head were beef cow replacements; 120,000 head were milk cow replacements, remaining constant with 2012; and all other heifers numbered 620,000 head, down 60,000 from the previous year.

Steers weighing 500 pounds or more were down 1 percent at 1.24 million head. Bulls 500 pounds and over included 60,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2013. Calves weighing under 500 pounds totaled 420,000 head, down 9 percent.

Iowa continued to rank number one in **hog** inventory in the United States. Hogs and pigs on hand December 1, 2013, totaled 20.2 million head, 31 percent of the nation's hogs.

Iowa's pork producers farrowed 1.91 million sows from December 2012 through November 2013. The average pigs saved per litter was 10.51. This resulted in a pig crop of 20.03 million, a decline of 1 percent from the previous year.

**Sheep and lambs** totaled 155,000 head on January 1, 2014, down 11 percent from a year ago. An estimated 135,000 lambs were born during 2013, down 10 percent.

Iowa **milk production** totaled 4.61 billion pounds of milk during 2013, up 2 percent from 2012. Milk cows on hand increased 3,000 from 2010, averaging 208,000 head. The annual average milk produced per cow was 22,144 pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year.

**Slaughter** plants in Iowa produced 6.57 billion pounds of red meat (beef, veal, pork, and mutton) during 2013, decreasing a percent from 2012.

## Prices Summary

**All milk prices** averaged \$20.50 per hundredweight in 2013, up 7 percent from \$19.50 in 2011. Prices averaged from a high of \$22.30 in December to a low of \$19.40 in July.

The 2012-2013 marketing year average price received for **corn** was \$6.92 per bushel, up 12 percent from the previous year. The **market year** began with \$6.84 per bushel in September and ended with \$6.32 per bushel in August. The average monthly prices for the 2013 **calendar year** ranged from a high of \$7.13 per bushel in March to a low of \$4.37 in December.

The 2012-2013 marketing year average price for **soybeans** was \$14.40 per bushel, an increase of 14 percent from 2011-2012. The **marketing year** began with \$14.40 per bushel in September and ended with \$14.20 per bushel in August. The average monthly prices for the 2013 **calendar year** ranged from a high of \$15.40 per bushel in July to a low of \$12.50 in October.

The 2012-2013 marketing year average price for **oats** was \$4.04 per bushel, up 21 percent from 2011-2012. The **marketing year** began with \$3.78 per bushel in July and ended with \$4.50 per bushel in June. The average monthly prices for the 2013 **calendar year** ranged from a high of \$4.85 per bushel in April to a low of \$3.70 in July.

The 2012-2013 marketing year average price received for **all hay** was \$191 per ton, decreasing 6 percent from the previous year. Average monthly prices for the 2013 **calendar year** ranged from a high of \$270 per ton in June to a low of \$176 in both October and December.