



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 11

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers were able to plant corn and soybeans early in the week until heavy rainfall stopped progress in many areas, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Planting of corn is running about 1 day behind last year and 4 days behind the 5-year average pace. Soybean planting is about 1 day behind last year and 6 days behind the 5-year average. Germination and emergence of corn has been a little slow due to the cool, wet soil conditions. Hay crops are reported to be in good condition. Tobacco plants are ready to set as soon as field conditions improve.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were **3.5 days suitable for field work**. Sixty-one percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 68 percent last year and 72 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 61 percent has been planted in the north, 74 percent in the central region, and 34 percent in the south. Nineteen percent of the corn acreage has now **emerged** compared with 27 percent last year and 35 percent for the 5-year average.

Eighty-six percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 90 percent last year and 93 percent for the 5-year average. Thirteen percent of the winter wheat is **headed** compared with 25 percent last year and 32 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 72 percent good to excellent compared to 37 percent last year at this time.

Major activities during the week included: planting corn and soybeans, spraying fungicides on wheat, equipment maintenance, tillage operations, applying fertilizer, spraying herbicides, hauling grain to market, hauling manure, and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 17% excellent, 43% good, 27% fair, 9% poor and 4% very poor. Some livestock operations continue to feed hay due to slower than normal pasture growth. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Planted	61	36	68	72
Corn Emerged	19	3	27	35
Soybeans Planted	19	6	31	35
Winter Wheat Jointed	86	69	90	93
Winter Wheat Headed	13	1	25	32

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	4	9	27	43	17
Winter Wheat	1	4	23	54	18

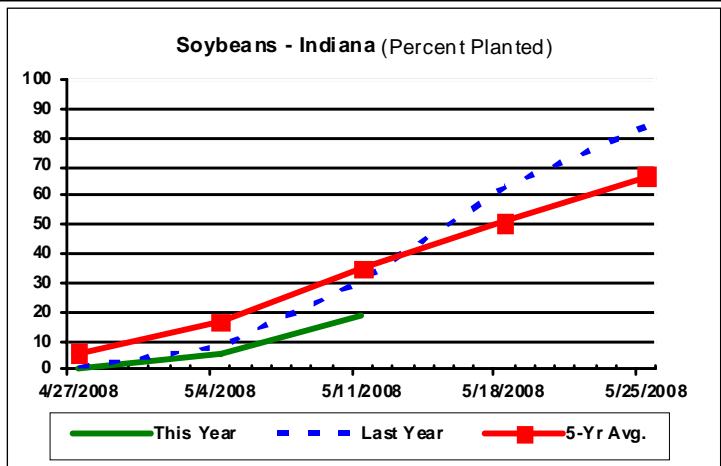
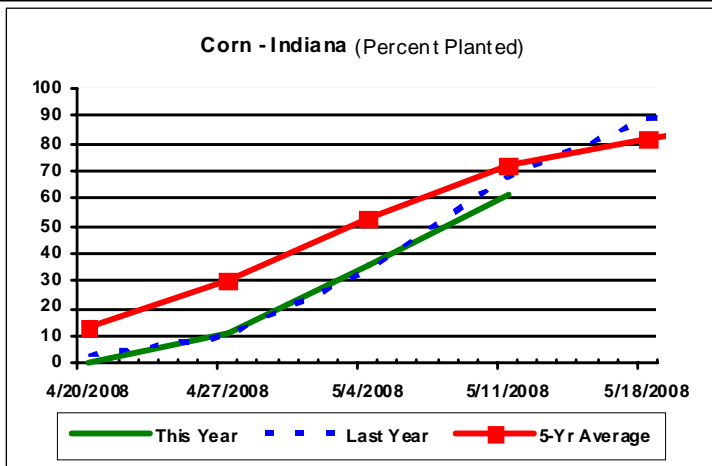
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	0	3	12
Adequate	45	75	76
Surplus	55	22	11
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	2	3
Adequate	59	70	84
Surplus	40	28	13
Days Suitable	3.5	4.8	5.9

CONTACT INFORMATION

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[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Indiana/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics%20by%20State/Indiana/)

Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Indiana Farmers Changing to No-Till

Data from the 2007 Indiana Cropland Tillage Transect Survey has been tallied and shows more Hoosier farmers are shifting to no-till farming. Final results indicate that no-till corn jumped from 19% in 2004 to 27% in 2007. No-till soybeans went from 61% in 2004 to 69% in 2007. Estimated soil loss reduction from the increase in no-till systems alone is more than one million tons annually in Indiana.

“Thanks to our many partners across Indiana who participated in the survey, we now have an accurate assessment of how we are managing our farms and protecting our natural resources,” said Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman. “This information will help us continue Indiana’s progress in conservation tillage.”

“No-till and strip-till farming can have a huge impact on controlling erosion and building organic matter,” said Barry Fisher, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) state agronomist and former Indiana Conservation Tillage Initiative Coordinator. “The survey confirmed for us that farmers are willing to make changes and adopt new management systems if we put technical support and program support within their reach. The transects show more no-till adoption in areas where the local Conservation Partnership staffs have made assistance and information available through no-till workshops, field days, EQIP, and partnerships and grants in watershed efforts like the St. Joseph watershed in the northeast, Sand Creek watershed in the southeast, Upper Eel River watershed in the southwest, and Tippecanoe watershed in the northwest.”

By compiling the tillage data, the Indiana Conservation Partnership can tell how much progress is being made in adoption of Conservation Tillage systems, and where further adoption can help protect soil and water resources. Conservation tillage is not just no-till, but includes any system that leaves 30% or more residue coverage on the soil surface in crop fields when measured in the spring before planting.

“These are significant changes,” says NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty. “In the short term, reducing soil erosion by a million tons is making the water cleaner in our lakes, streams and rivers. That water is used by people for drinking and recreation. It also affects aquatic habitats here in Indiana, and every place it touches all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. In the long term, the change adds names to an ever-increasing list of farmers who are saving time, saving energy, and saving money. At the same time they improve soil and water resources in their communities and beyond.”

A transect is a survey of randomly selected farm fields, used to compile statistics on just what types of tillage systems Indiana farmers use. The transects were initiated because conservation tillage systems have more potential than anything else to affect soil erosion, water quality and long term productivity of soils in the intensive cropping systems that are prevalent in Indiana agriculture.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday May 11, 2008

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2008 thru May 11, 2008_ _ _				
							4 in	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN_
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	81	37	56	-4	0.62	3		3.48	-1.60	15	195	-33
Francesville	82	37	57	-2	1.16	3		3.97	-0.95	15	200	+11
Valparaiso_AP_I	82	37	57	-1	0.18	2		2.61	-2.73	12	222	+47
Wanatah	83	35	54	-3	0.36	2	59	4.18	-0.95	17	182	+38
Winamac	82	36	56	-4	1.56	4	58	4.56	-0.36	17	200	+11
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	80	39	56	-4	0.74	4		4.83	-0.39	16	204	+2
South_Bend	80	39	58	+2	0.59	2		3.80	-1.14	16	244	+83
Young_America	81	40	57	-2	2.63	4		6.48	+1.68	16	218	+35
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	78	40	56	-1	0.72	5	52	4.17	-0.67	17	202	+58
Fort_Wayne	78	39	57	-1	0.72	6		3.49	-1.10	17	241	+69
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	81	40	58	-4	2.64	5		7.30	+1.90	16	210	-45
Perrysville	83	37	59	-1	1.40	4	61	4.74	-0.57	15	238	+21
Spencer_Ag	80	37	57	-3	2.24	4		6.02	+0.29	14	221	-1
Terre_Haute_AFB	80	39	59	-2	1.73	3		4.52	-1.01	11	274	+20
W_Lafayette_6NW	83	38	57	-2	1.34	4	57	4.75	-0.41	19	225	+36
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	80	42	60	-2	2.21	5		5.69	+0.56	17	298	+55
Greenfield	79	41	57	-3	1.77	4		6.00	+0.36	20	229	+19
Indianapolis_AP	81	43	60	+0	2.13	4		4.63	-0.50	16	319	+76
Indianapolis_SE	80	38	57	-4	1.85	4		4.15	-1.25	17	235	+8
Tipton_Ag	81	38	57	-2	1.61	5	60	5.08	-0.24	19	208	+46
East Central(6)												
Farmland	78	39	56	-2	1.81	4	58	5.16	+0.26	18	200	+45
New_Castle	79	40	56	-2	1.57	5		5.22	-0.49	19	209	+49
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	79	43	63	-2	1.60	4		8.44	+2.70	15	368	+12
Freelandville	79	43	59	-3	4.13	4		8.67	+2.99	16	283	+9
Shoals_8S	79	36	58	-3	3.16	3		10.37	+4.41	16	256	-12
Stendal	80	42	61	-2	2.74	4		10.85	+4.55	18	343	+33
Vincennes_5NE	81	42	61	-1	4.49	3	64	8.67	+2.99	13	317	+43
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	80	41	62	+2	1.28	5		9.46	+3.15	24	338	+64
Oolitic	77	36	57	-3	4.71	4	60	9.27	+3.56	19	245	+8
Tell_City	79	43	62	-1	1.13	3		9.98	+3.42	18	367	+43
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	81	39	59	+2	1.93	4		6.48	+0.97	20	267	+72
Greensburg	79	42	59	-1	1.61	4		5.65	-0.16	19	287	+62
Scottsburg	81	40	61	+0	1.96	3		6.72	+0.93	18	331	+53

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Indiana Farmers Changing to No-Till (Continued)

The Cropland Tillage Transects began in 1990 as a joint effort of the Indiana Conservation Partnership members. The surveys are done by teams made up of staff from:

- Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts,
- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service,
- Purdue University's Cooperative Extension Service, and
- Division of Soil Conservation - Indiana State Department of Agriculture (DSC-ISDA).

The data is compiled by DSC-ISDA and is available on their Web site at <<http://www.in.gov/isda/2355.htm>>.

More than half of the land of the state is used for intensive crop production. Only one state has a higher percentage of prime farmland soils than Indiana's 66%, and that is Illinois at 67%. Among Indiana's most valuable resources, prime farmland soils are

those designated as most productive and with the fewest limitations for growing crops.

Fisher adds, "The more Conservation Tillage there is, the more protected our soil resources are, the less soil erosion we'll have, and the cleaner our surface waters will be. Reducing erosion becomes more important when you realize that soil particles can also have fertilizer and other farm chemicals attached to them. These crop inputs are increasingly more expensive and are best kept on the land where they can be used by crops. Too much sediment will damage and disrupt the biology of streams, lakes, and rivers. We want to do all we can to keep sediment out of the water and keep topsoil on the land where it is productive."

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