



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office
1435 Win Hentschel Blvd.

Suite 110
West Lafayette, IN 47906-4145

(765) 494-8371
nass-in@nass.usda.gov

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 21

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers continue to assess wind and flood damage that occurred Sunday, September 14th as Hurricane Ike moved across the state, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Many farmers are buying equipment for their combines to pick up downed corn due to the acres damaged by the strong winds. Progress of the corn harvest has been slow as farmers have to slow combine speeds in damaged fields.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.8 **days suitable for field work**. **Corn condition** declined slightly from last week and is rated 53 percent good to excellent compared to 50 percent last year at this time. Eighty-nine percent of the corn acreage is in the **dent** stage compared with 98 percent last year and 95 percent for the 5-year average. Forty percent of the corn acreage is now **mature** compared with 73 percent last year and 59 percent for the 5-year average. Three percent of the corn acreage has been **harvested** compared with 18 percent last year and 10 percent for the 5-year average.

Sixty percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 76 percent last year and 68 percent for the 5-year average. Two percent of the soybean acreage has been **harvested** compared with 10 percent last year and 9 percent for the 5-year average. **Soybean condition** declined slightly from last week and is rated 46 percent good to excellent the same as last year at this time.

One percent of the 2009 **winter wheat** acreage has been **planted** compared with 3 percent for both last year and the 5-year average. Fifty-eight percent of the **tobacco** acreage is reported to be **harvested** at this time compared with 56 percent last year and 64 percent for the 5-year average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated as 3% excellent, 27% good, 36% fair, 24% poor and 10% very poor. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn in Dent	89	77	98	95
Corn Mature	40	19	73	59
Corn Harvested	3	N/A	18	10
Soybeans Shedding Lvs	60	32	76	68
Soybeans Harvested	2	N/A	10	9
Tobacco Harvested	58	34	56	64
Winter Wheat Planted	1	N/A	3	3

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	5	13	29	42	11
Soybean	7	13	34	37	9
Pasture	10	24	36	27	3

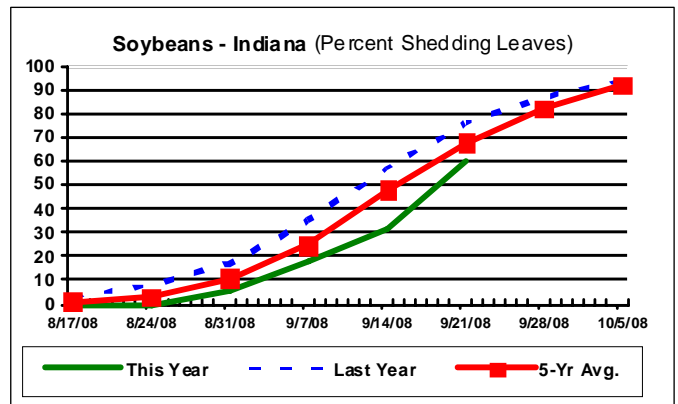
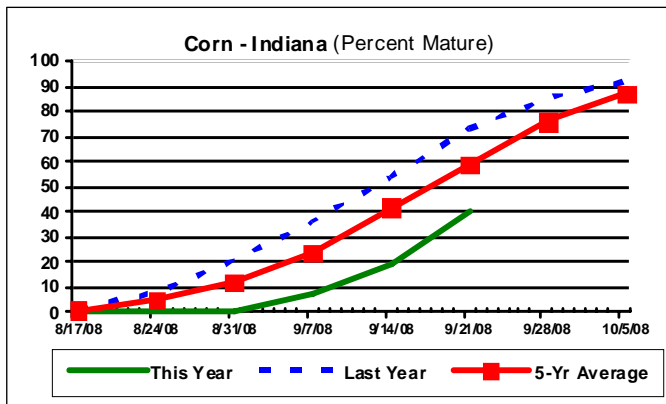
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	9	8	38
Short	30	29	31
Adequate	58	54	31
Surplus	3	9	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	10	9	39
Short	29	34	28
Adequate	58	50	33
Surplus	3	7	0
Days Suitable	5.8	4.8	7.0

CONTACT INFORMATION

--Greg Preston, Director
--Andy Higgins, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Crop Input Costs Continue Upward for 2009 Growing Season

September 10, 2008

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - A Purdue University agricultural economist recently gazed into his crystal ball and saw big dollar signs representing input costs for fertilizer, seed genetics, energy and land costs.

"The cost of growing corn, soybeans and wheat increased dramatically for the 2008 crop and substantial increases are expected again for the 2009 growing season," said Bruce Erickson, Purdue Extension Cropping Systems Management director.

"Our preliminary budgets, based on an assessment of the seed, chemical and fertilizer industries, show variable costs for rotational corn increasing by 29 percent, compared to 40 percent for soybeans and 39 percent for wheat."

He said that last year's bigger increases came from the cost of nitrogen fertilizers and fuels, which affected the cost of growing corn relatively more than soybeans.

"Those inputs are not expected to increase at the same magnitude they did last year," he said. "Other inputs such as phosphorus and potassium, seed genetics and some herbicides will cost more, so the cost of putting in a soybean crop is projected to increase more than corn."

Along with increasing costs come thoughts of cutting back, Erickson pointed out. While input prices are up substantially, market prices for crops are up too, he said.

"For instance, if we look back a couple of years at the ratio of the cost of nitrogen per pound to the market price received, it might look something like nitrogen at 25 cents per pound and \$2.50 per bushel for corn," Erickson said. "Now it looks more like 60 cents nitrogen and \$6 per bushel corn."

Both costs and market prices received have been elevated, he said. Even though margins look good for the 2009 year, the relative return of each input should be evaluated because of the different price changes for various inputs, Erickson said.

For the 2009 crop, potash prices could exceed \$900 per ton, anhydrous ammonia more than \$1,000 per ton and diammonium phosphate or DAP around \$1,100 or more per ton, Erickson said. In the preliminary budgets, these numbers translate to fertilizer costs of \$200 per acre for corn and more than \$100 per acre for soybeans.

"We're seeing fertilizer prices skyrocket, primarily because worldwide market prices for crops are high, which increases the demand for fertilizers," he said. "The higher market prices are not only causing an influx of demand for fertilizers, but adding value to seed genetics and precision ag technology in the form of increased yields."

When selecting next year's seed, growers will see prices at or above the \$300 mark for the highest-performing, most fully equipped corn hybrids and at or above \$50 per unit for select soybeans. Seed budgets for 2009 are expected to be between \$80 and \$100 per acre for hybrid corn, and between \$50 and \$70 per acre for soybeans, Erickson said.

"The dramatic increase of input costs will drive the adoption of precision ag technologies because the potential payback for using auto-guidance systems, sprayer boom control or variable rate technology improves efficiency and margins by minimizing input costs," he said.

Other inputs that were factored into the preliminary budgets include energy and land costs. Erickson noted that fuel prices have dropped from the summer highs and does not believe we'll see a repeat of the

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Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday September 21 2008

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2008 thru September 21, 2008				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	4 in	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
							Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	81	48	64	-2	1.85	1		23.25	+1.96	60	2535	-394
Francesville	81	49	63	+0	1.64	2		25.86	+4.37	68	2552	-140
Valparaiso_AP_I	82	50	64	+0	1.80	2		17.25	-5.63	55	2732	+56
Wanatah	82	46	62	-1	3.39	1	69	29.27	+7.11	64	2452	-105
Winamac	81	49	63	+0	2.32	3		28.47	+6.98	66	2582	-110
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	82	50	63	-2	2.96	1		25.54	+3.69	68	2576	-254
South_Bend	80	52	64	+1	3.20	1		26.50	+5.28	61	2744	+88
Young_America	81	47	63	-2	0.80	1		26.26	+5.51	60	2615	-167
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	81	47	63	+1	0.74	1	69	22.03	+1.20	65	2528	-7
Fort_Wayne	81	47	65	+1	0.40	1		19.99	+0.84	67	2859	+78
West Central(4)												
Greencastle	80	46	64	-3	1.20	2		34.96	+10.83	62	2657	-476
Perrysville	82	46	64	-1	0.98	2	71	28.76	+6.03	66	2893	-24
Spencer_Ag	81	48	65	+0	0.68	2		35.98	+11.65	69	2904	-40
Terre_Haute_AFB	81	47	66	-1	0.39	1		28.99	+6.20	54	3053	-57
W_Lafayette_6NW	82	47	63	-2	1.31	1	65	23.96	+2.68	70	2718	-49
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	81	50	66	+2	0.25	1		29.79	+8.47	67	3159	+75
Greenfield	80	48	64	-2	0.61	2		32.12	+8.78	73	2791	-176
Indianapolis_AP	83	52	67	+2	0.22	1		25.96	+4.64	64	3212	+128
Indianapolis_SE	81	47	64	-3	0.69	2		29.58	+7.77	58	2780	-296
Tipton_Ag	83	42	64	+0	1.02	2	68	23.11	+1.52	68	2639	-45
East Central(6)												
Farmland	84	43	63	-1	0.26	1	68	21.04	+0.00	62	2555	-67
New_Castle	83	46	63	-1	0.11	1		26.88	+4.54	66	2574	-113
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	88	51	69	+1	0.01	1		23.38	+1.91	54	3648	+77
Freelandville	81	52	66	-2	1.10	2		30.72	+8.34	58	3170	-42
Shoals_8S	82	46	64	-3	0.04	1		29.99	+5.79	57	2929	-186
Stendal	86	55	69	+2	0.00	0		29.39	+5.30	82	3401	+32
Vincennes_5NE	83	52	67	-1	0.37	3	70	25.38	+3.00	54	3309	+97
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	83	51	67	+2	0.28	2		26.24	+1.73	87	3332	+238
Oolitic	82	48	65	-2	0.03	1	68	27.76	+4.58	61	2899	-78
Tell_City	87	53	69	+1	0.00	0		22.50	-2.15	51	3549	+103
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	84	48	66	+2	0.04	1		22.57	+0.06	68	3026	+197
Greensburg	85	49	66	+2	0.07	1		28.87	+6.17	64	3020	+131
Scottsburg	83	50	66	-1	0.26	2		25.65	+2.61	79	3227	+27

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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.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com

Crop Input Costs Continue Upward for 2009 Growing Season (Continued)

past year. As for diesel, the Energy Information Administration predicts prices for 2009 will be similar to 2008 prices and the Purdue budgets are at \$4. Propane prices are expected to be 10 percent to 15 percent higher this fall and winter from last year and then drop 2 percent to 6 percent the rest of 2009.

The ag economist pointed out that land values and cash rents also have seen large increases. The most recent survey, conducted by Purdue, shows that Indiana farmland value increased by 13.5 percent to 15 percent from this time last year, while cash rents increased 12 percent to 13.5 percent. For more information on farmland value and cash rents, go to <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/agcomm/aganswers/story.asp?storyID=5010> or <http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/extension/pubs/paer/2008/august/dobbins.asp>.

"Even though margins look decent for the 2009 crop year, farmers still need to manage their risks," Erickson said. "Production risks can be managed through crop insurance and market risks can be managed through contracts, futures and options.

"The input side still leaves margins at considerable risk, but if you're confident in the seasonal variability purchases can be made accordingly. Having the ability to store inputs on the farm in bulk can help you take advantage of fluctuating prices."

Erickson also advises that farmers use today's margins to pay off debt or build up working capital. This would allow a farm to be in a better financial position and ready to take advantage of opportunities that might come along, he said.

Writer: Julie Douglas, (765) 496-1050, douglajk@purdue.edu, Ag Communication Service, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47906

Source: Bruce Erickson, (765) 494-9557, berickso@purdue.edu

Ag Communications: (765) 494-2722; Beth Forbes, forbes@purdue.edu

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