



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 23

Corn harvest continues to advance, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Harvest was slowed in northern areas of the state, where several inches of snow were received. Cool temperatures prevented the snow from melting, leading to further delays for farmers. Fall tillage activities continue as field conditions allow.

CORN

Ninety-two percent of the **corn** acreage has been **harvested**, ahead of the 88 percent average. By region, corn harvest is 86 percent complete in the north, 96 percent in the central, and 96 percent complete in the south. **Moisture content** of harvested corn remains around 21 percent.

SOYBEANS

Soybean harvest is virtually complete, with only a few scattered fields remaining to be cut. This year's harvest finished up slightly ahead of both last year and average.

WINTER WHEAT

Ninety-seven percent of the **winter wheat** acreage has **emerged**, ahead of 95 percent last year and equal to the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** was rated 68 percent good to excellent, compared to 69 percent at this time last year. Precipitation received during the past week was a welcome sight for the crop. Cooler than normal temperatures combined with dry soil conditions have slowed growth in many areas.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 3.6 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent very short, 14 percent short, 71 percent adequate and 14 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 8 percent very short, 31 percent short, 55 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Harvested	92	87	88	88
Winter Wheat Emerged	97	93	95	97

CROP CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Wheat	0	5	27	56	12

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	4	0
Short	14	25	2
Adequate	71	67	81
Surplus	14	4	17
Subsoil			
Very Short	8	13	0
Short	31	32	8
Adequate	55	52	83
Surplus	6	3	9

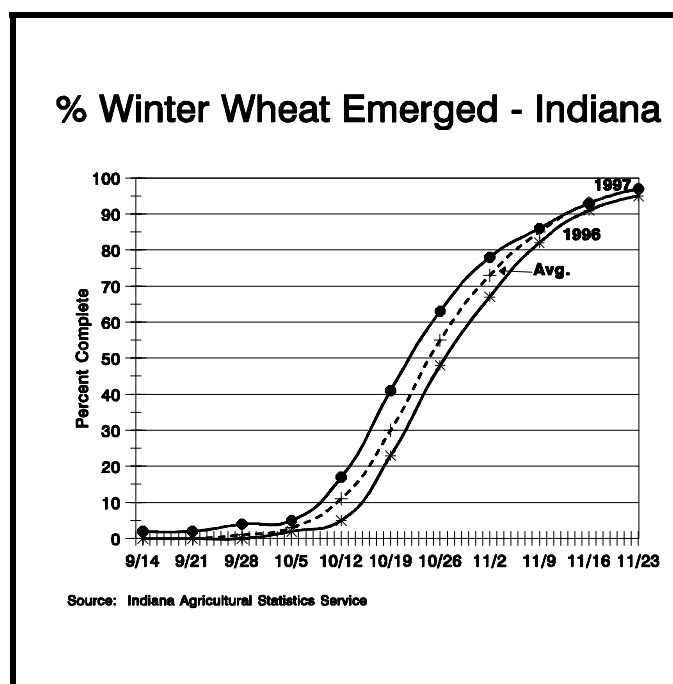
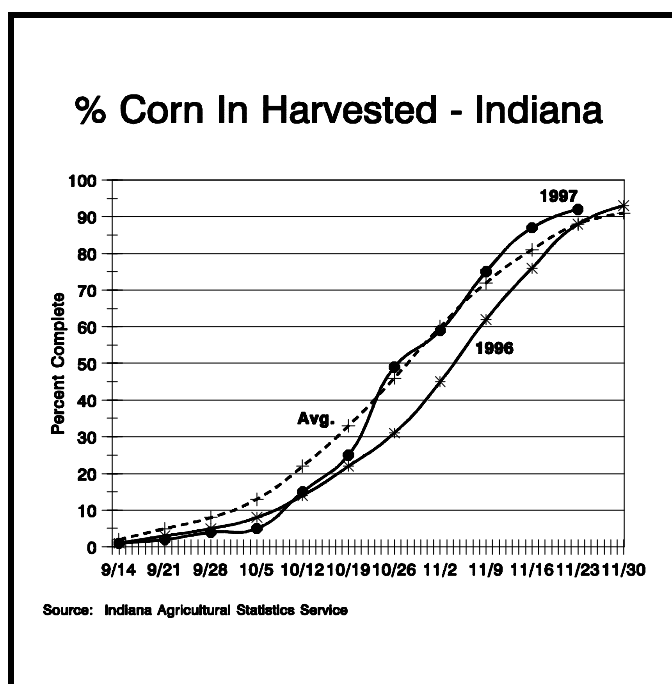
--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician

--Lance Honig, Agricultural Statistician

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Crop Progress



Time to Renegotiate Land Leases

The rush to renegotiate farmland leases that was brought on by 1995 passage of the "Freedom to Farm" bill has slowed considerably, but according to Purdue Extension economist Gerry Harrison, now is the time to revisit leases for the coming year.

"Price out and crop budgets, plus the 'Freedom to Farm' corn payment hold the promise of hefty profits for 1998," Harrison says. "Leases that are not settled by early December may delay the advanced, government program payments for 1998."

"These advances are available on December 15 or January 15, at the 'certified producer's' choice -- payable to the producer or the producers of record," he says.

A current tenant whose lease has not been terminated may be certified as a producer for 1998 and, as such, may collect a farms advance program payment. "Time is short for getting leases settled, it may be better to make necessary adjustments and take the necessary time to keep both parties happy," says Harrison, a member of the Bar.

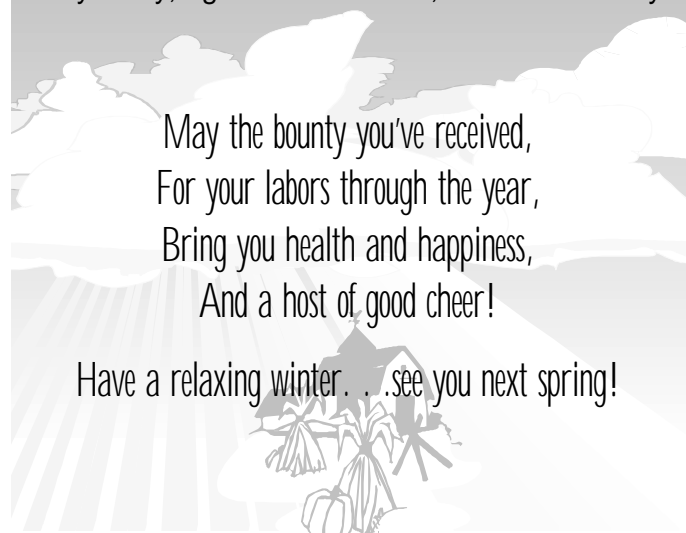
Indiana law requires at least three months advance notice of a prospective lease termination unless other legal arrangements are in effect. "Because March 1 is the customary start of the lease year in the Midwest, most leases need to be terminated before the end of November," Harrison says.

Term leases that begin and end on predetermined dates may need no termination notice, Harrison says. "The critical need is to communicate to be sure you know what the other party is thinking."

Harrison advises landowners and tenants to consult their legal counsel for help in drafting and delivering termination notices as well as in writing new lease terms.

More information on farmland lease laws, including tax implications of leasing arrangements and the economics of leasing, is available through Purdue Cooperative Extension Offices.

--Amy Raley, Ag Communications, Purdue University



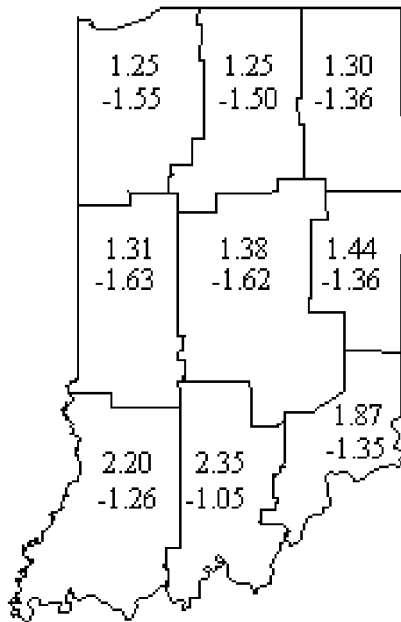
Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning November 25, 1997

Area	Station	Air Temperature			Precipitation			Growing Degree Days		
		Max	Min	DN	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1
NW	Wanatah	40	21	-7	.00	25.11	-3.29		2818	-95
	Kentland	42	25	-4	.10	18.94	-9.06	1	3150	-129
	Winamac	40	23	-6	.12	26.61	-.77	1	2987	-78
NC	South Bend	38	26	-6	.00	22.03	-5.76		2940	-46
	Waterford Mills	39	24	-7	.00	29.58	+3.61		2926	-111
NE	Prairie Heights	39	24	-5	.10	26.07	-.57		2812	+99
	Columbia City	40	25	-5	.25	27.17	+.28	1	2949	+26
	Fort Wayne	39	26	-6	.44	29.18	+4.69		2979	-168
	Bluffton	40	25	-7	.23	25.86	-.31	2	3079	-169
WC	West Lafayette	43	26	-5	.14	20.73	-6.28	2	3211	+54
	Lafayette	43	24	-5	.13	19.47	-7.54	2	3289	+132
	Perrysville	43	26	-7	.07	19.32	-10.98	2	3268	-408
	Crawfordsville	43	24	-5	.44	21.27	-5.00	2	3040	-146
	Terre Haute 8s	49	29	-2	.27	21.94	-7.28	9	3566	-8
C	Tipton	41	24	-6	.27	21.99	-6.16	1	2936	-149
	Indianapolis	44	29	-4	.32	17.34	-9.95	4	3397	-117
	Indian Creek	46	28	-3	.26	20.41	-8.10	4	3421	+40
EC	Farmland	42	25	-5	.44	21.01	-5.64	2	3038	+12
	Liberty	45	27	-4	.29	22.30	-6.61	3	3168	-204
SW	Vincennes	47	31	-3	.33	28.08	-.88	10	3649	-34
	Dubois	46	28	-6	.34	27.44	-4.34	6	3523	-90
	Evansville	49	32	-4	.26	20.28	-7.87	11	3820	-219
SC	Bedford	46	26	-5	.41	30.32	+.06	8	3378	-114
	Louisville	48	34	-4	.51	23.90	-5.19	6	3934	-85
SE	Butlerville	46	29	-6	.53	28.58	-.43	7	3328	-413

DN = departure from normal.

Growing Degree Days = daily mean - 50 (below 50 adjusted to 50, above 86 adjusted to 86.)

Rainfall for Past 4 Weeks
and Departure from Normal



Rainfall of 1 Inch or More
for Past 7 Days as of Monday morning



Wheat Looks Good

With most of this summer's corn and beans safely in bins or off to processors, farmers across Indiana and Ohio are sitting back to watch the wheat grow. So far, they are happy with what they see.

"The wheat crop is in pretty good shape statewide," says Purdue extension wheat specialist Ellsworth Christmas about Indiana's winter crop. "There are some isolated areas where the soils were dry at planting, and it's emerged uneven and late because of that."

That's the exception not the rule, however, he says.

"If we make it through November without any really severe cold weather, such as single-digit lows and highs in the teens, those (dry) fields will be okay," he says.

If such temperature extremes hit before the end of the month, Christmas says the young wheat plants could lose tissue, and thinner stands could result.

"When plants lose tissue in a severe freeze early on, they usually try to regrow, which reduces root reserves and weakens the plant." When this weakening happens, the plant becomes more vulnerable to disease, he says.

For now, though, that's seen as the worst-case scenario. "As a whole, the crop looks good at this point," Christmas says.

--Amy Raley, Ag Communications, Purdue University

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