

CROP HIGHLIGHTS

ACREAGE: Indiana's principal field crops totaled 11.8 million acres for harvest during 2023, 45 thousand acres less than 2022. Soybean harvested acreage at 5.48 million was down 350 thousand from the previous year. Corn harvested for grain acreage was 5.31 million up 180 thousand acres from previous year.

YIELDS: A relatively warm and dry start to spring aided planting progress throughout April. The average temperature for the month was 52.5 degrees Fahrenheit, 1.2 degrees above normal. By the end of April, planting progress for both corn and soybeans were around 20 percent complete, ahead of their respective five-year averages. Winter wheat jointing progress was 14 percentage points ahead of its five-year average.

Dry conditions persisted throughout much of May, allowing planting to progress ahead of schedule but also raising concerns about soil moisture levels. The average temperature for May was 62.6 degrees. By the end of the month, planting progress for both corn and soybeans were well ahead of the five-year averages, and winter wheat headed was 11 points ahead its five-year average.

The month of June brought cool temperatures, but dry conditions continued. The average temperature for the month was 69.5 degrees. Corn and soybean planting wrapped up in early June, well ahead of schedule. Dry conditions lingered throughout the first two weeks of the month, with only 29 percent of topsoil moisture reported as adequate or surplus by mid-June. Much needed rainfall arrived in the following weeks, and topsoil moisture was rated at 61 percent adequate or surplus by the end of the month.

By mid-June, corn and soybean emergence neared completion with 56 percent of corn and 57 percent of soybeans rated in good to excellent condition. At this time, first cuttings of alfalfa and other hay also neared completion, and second cuttings were beginning. By the end of June, over a third of the State's winter wheat had been harvested with 70

percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition.

Timely rains continued to replenish moisture levels throughout the month of July. Topsoil moisture level ratings averaged 64 percent adequate or surplus throughout the month. The average temperature for the month was 74.4 degrees. By July 23, winter wheat harvest was all but complete with 96 percent harvested, just one point below the five-year average. At the end of the month, corn silking progress was in line with the five-year average, and 63 percent of corn was rated in good to excellent condition. Soybean blooming progressed on schedule as well, while soybean condition was rated 65 percent good to excellent. Livestock were reportedly doing well with 51 percent of pastures rated in good to excellent condition as of July 30.



"Rural Indiana Corn"
Photographer -- Lexi Persohn
Age 11, Birdseye, IN

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Moderate temperatures and timely rains continued throughout August, with topsoil moisture level ratings averaging 72 percent adequate or surplus for the month. Crop progress items remaining roughly in line with the five-year averages. Drier conditions took hold in September, but corn and soybean crop conditions remained stable as the crops reached maturity. By the end of September, corn condition was rated 55 percent good to excellent and soybeans were rated 54 percent good to excellent. Winter wheat planting was 11 percent complete, 5 percentage points behind the five-year average.

Corn and soybean harvest progressed just slightly behind schedule throughout October. Corn harvested for silage wrapped up around the middle of the month. Drier conditions in November allowed farmers to make up ground, and corn and soybean

harvests finished up on schedule around mid- to late-November. As of November 26, winter wheat emergence was at 89 percent, just 2 points behind the five-year average. In 2023, the Indiana Winter Wheat yield was 92.0 bushels per acre; a record high. The 2023 Indiana corn yield was 203.0 bushels per acre while soybeans yielded 61.0 bushels per acre. Both were record high yields

PRODUCTION: Indiana corn production in 2023 totaled 1.08 billion bushels, 11 percent above 2022's total of 974.7 million bushels. Indiana's soybean production totaled 334.3 million bushels, down less than 1 percent from 2022's 335.2 million bushels. Indiana wheat production at 30.8 million bushels was up 59 percent from 2022's 19.4 million bushels. All hay production, at 1.27 million tons, was down 20 percent from the previous year.



“Combine Emptying Hopper and Tractor Pulling Grain Cart”
Photographer ~~ Maddy Duncan
Age 13, Mooresville, IN