



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Hardin County Extension News Release

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County Crop Yields for 2016

Hardin County – As Hardin County recognized its farmers and agribusinesses on National Agriculture Day March 21, crop yields from the 2016 growing season have been released from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service. Although these crop production numbers are based on estimates, they are used for crop insurance and government reporting purposes.

According to a recently released report, 94,000 acres of corn were planted with 90,000 acres harvested in the county in 2016. The county average yield was 155.6 bushels per acre, compared to 121.4 bushels per acre in 2015. There were a total of 14,000,000 bushels of corn produced this past crop year in Hardin County. Area county yields for the same year were Allen – 150, Auglaize – 134.3, Logan – 151.4, Union – 180.8, Marion – 172.2, Wyandot – 152.6, and Hancock – 143.2 bushels per acre. The state corn yield average was 159 bushels per acre.

County soybean production data showed that 118,500 acres of soybeans were planted with 118,400 acres harvested in the county in 2016. The county average yield was 53.7 bushels per acre, compared to 46.5 bushels per acre in 2015. There were a total of 6,360,000 bushels of soybeans produced this past crop year in Hardin County. Area county yields for the same year were Allen – 54.4, Auglaize – 53.2, Logan – 55.5, Union – 58.6, Marion – 54.6, Wyandot – 52.2, and Hancock – 48.4 bushels per acre. The state soybean yield average was 54.5 bushels per acre.

Wheat acres in the county were less, with 8200 acres of wheat planted with 8100 acres harvested in 2016. The county average yield was 76.5 bushels per acre, with 59.4 bushels per acre in 2015. There were a total of 620,000 bushels of wheat produced this past crop year in Hardin County. Area county yields for the same year were Allen – 88.2, Auglaize – 87.0, Logan – 82.4, Union – 78.4, Marion – 85.5, Wyandot – not published, and Hancock – 84.7 bushels per acre. The state wheat yield average was 80 bushels per acre.

After a very wet year in 2015, farmers were optimistic for a good crop year in 2016. Corn yields were inconsistent depending on the area rainfall, and when it arrived on area corn fields. Several fields had lower yields due to smaller ears and incomplete kernel fill. However, moisture levels in corn were fairly dry at harvest time, reducing the need for running grain dryers as much as some years. Although corn yields were better than 2015, overall corn yields for the growing season were lower than usual and were accompanied by low corn prices.

Because soybeans adapt better to weather, the August rains helped increase yields with this crop after an extended dry period for about a month. Soybean prices were steady and aided by better yields for the crop compared to other years. The growing season for wheat turned out to be optimal. Early rains and mild temperatures aided wheat plant development and grain production. Dry weather around harvest time eliminated disease problems experienced with the previous year's crop resulting in high yields and good grain quality for wheat. Weeds were an issue in 2016, as several Hardin County farmers' herbicide applications did not work as well due to an extended period without rain mid-season.

For more information contact OSU Extension, Hardin County, visit the Hardin County OSU Extension web site at hardin.osu.edu, the Hardin County OSU Extension Facebook page, or call Mark Badertscher, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator at 419-674-2297.