

Crop Progress

Released December 22, 2009, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Crop Progress* call Julie Schmidt at (202) 720-7621, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

This is the final 2009 *Crop Progress* report to be issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Weekly publication of the *Crop Progress* report will resume for the week ending April 4, 2010.

Not Applicable (NA) was published where estimates do not exist for the previous year or 5-year average due to this year's extended Crop Progress season.

Corn: Percent Harvested, Selected States¹

State	Week Ending			2004-2008 Avg.
	Dec 20, 2009	Dec 13, 2009	Dec 20, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	98	95	99	99
IL	95	90	100	100
IN	98	96	100	100
IA	98	96	NA	NA
KS	98	96	100	100
KY	100	99	100	100
MI	94	89	100	100
MN	93	91	100	100
MO	98	95	100	100
NE	93	91	NA	NA
NC	100	100	100	100
ND	68	60	NA	NA
OH	99	98	100	100
PA	93	86	NA	NA
SD	88	82	NA	NA
TN	100	100	100	100
TX	100	100	100	100
WI	88	85	NA	NA
18 Sts	95	92	NA	NA

¹ These 18 States harvested 94% of last year's corn acreage.

Cotton: Percent Harvested, Selected States¹

State	Week Ending			2004-2008 Avg.
	Dec 20, 2009	Dec 13, 2009	Dec 20, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	84	82	100	100
AZ	95	92	84	91
AR	100	100	100	100
CA	100	100	100	100
GA	82	79	NA	NA
KS	80	59	NA	NA
LA	100	100	100	100
MS	100	100	100	100
MO	99	98	100	100
NC	95	92	100	100
OK	80	61	NA	NA
SC	98	97	NA	NA
TN	99	98	100	100
TX	96	92	85	83
VA	96	94	100	100
15 Sts	94	91	NA	NA

¹ These 15 States harvested 99% of last year's cotton acreage.

Crop Progress and Condition Survey and Estimating Procedures

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data collected each week from early April through the end of November. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from more than 5,000 reporters whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these reporters subjectively estimate progress of farmers' activities and progress of crops through various stages of development. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop conditions.

Most reporters complete their questionnaires on Friday or early Monday morning and submit them to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Field Offices in their States by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or through a secured internet website. A small number of reports are completed on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Regardless of when questionnaires are completed, reporters are asked to report for the week ending on Sunday. For reports submitted prior to the Sunday reference date, a degree of uncertainty is introduced by projections for weekend changes in progress and condition. By the end of the 2001 season, nearly two-thirds of the data were being submitted through the internet website. As a result, about one-half of all data are submitted on Monday morning, significantly reducing projection uncertainty.

Reporters are sent written reporting instructions at the beginning of each season and are contacted periodically to ensure proper reporting. Terms and definitions of crop stages and condition categories used as reporting guidelines are available on the NASS website at:

www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/National_Crop_Progress/terms_definitions/index.asp.

Estimating Procedures: Reported data are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported the previous week and data reported in surrounding counties for the current week. Each State Field Office summarizes the reported data to district and State levels, weighting each county's reported data by NASS county acreage estimates. Summarized indications are compared with previous week estimates, and progress items are compared with earlier stages of development and historical averages to ensure reasonableness. Weather events and reporter comments are also taken into consideration. State estimates are submitted to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) along with supporting comments, where they are compared with surrounding States and compiled into a National level summary by weighting each State by its acreage estimates.

Revision Policy: Progress and condition estimates in the *Crop Progress* report are released after 4:00 pm ET on the first business day of the week. These estimates are preliminary and subject to corrections or updates in the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* that is released after 12:00 pm ET on the second business day of the week. These estimates are subject to revision the following week.

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