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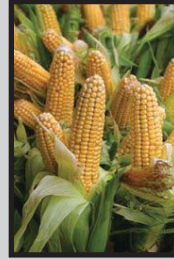
# LOOK AHEAD

September 2008

## Potential record-setting Michigan corn part of renewed crop outlook

*State's soybean forecast bucks national trend; sugar beets also look promising*

Contact: Bob Boehm, (800) 292-2680, ext. 2023



LANSING, Aug. 14, 2008 -If "nearly ideal" weather continues, this year's corn crop will be one for state and national history books.

Michigan corn farmers expect a yield of 148 bushels per acre, up 24 bushels from 2007. If realized, this would be a record yield for the state. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expects national corn yields will average 155 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels from last year. If realized, this would be the nation's second-largest corn yield on record, behind 2004.

The state numbers look excellent for Michigan, as most crops other than dry beans benefitted from timely planting," said Bob Boehm, manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau Commodity and Marketing Department. "There is some variability across the state with excess moisture in the Saginaw Valley and concerns about dry conditions in the central and western regions, but overall crops look very good."

In the Corn Belt, recent favorable weather has helped the crop rebound in the aftermath of severe storms and floods that swept the area in June.

In mid-June, analysts predicted that the Iowa corn crop could be reduced 10 percent to 15 percent due to heavy flooding and rain-delayed planting, but excellent growing conditions in July made up for those difficult conditions.

Surprisingly, estimated yields in all of the top-five corn producing states, with the exception of Illinois, either match or exceed 2007 yields, according to Terry Francl, a senior economist with the American Farm Bureau Federation.

"Illinois was only off 2 bushels per acre, but what was unexpected was that Iowa's estimated yield of 171 bushels per acre was unchanged from last year," said Francl. USDA pegs national corn production at 12.3 billion bushels, up 573 million bushels from last month's projection. The estimate is down from last year's record harvest of 13 billion bushels, but 17 percent above the 2006 harvest. If realized, production



## Membership Standings

	2008	8/20/08	
Goal	199,120	187,071	93.95%
Target	47,860	47,401	96.95%

**Attention:**  
**2008/09 CAG Packets will be mailed out in September to ALL county Farm Bureau SECRETARIES.**  
**Included in the packet will be 12 CAG envelopes, 12 revised Set-up Sheets, 12 revised & Response Forms.**  
**Set-up Sheets must be returned to CAMs by 12/1/08 to insure mailing.**



7373 West Saginaw Hwy.

Lansing, MI 48917

Ph (517) 323-7000

Fax (517) 323-6604

[www.michfb.com](http://www.michfb.com)

For questions, comments and suggestions, please contact Mike Wenkel at ext. 3232

### A LOOK AHEAD ...

#### : September

- : 1 Labor Day Holiday
- : 3-4 State P&C and YF Committee Mtgs
- : 3-5 AFBF Administrative & Financial Officers Conf. - San Antonio, Texas
- : 17 Michigan Bio-Economy Summit - Lansing, MI

#### : October

- : 7-8 State Policy Development Committee Meetings
- : 28-30 State PD Committee Meeting

#### : November

- : 27-28 Holidays

\*\*\*County Annual Meetings Continue through November

(Cont'd from front page)

would be the second highest on record, behind last year when producers harvested the most acres of corn for grain since 1933.

Michigan corn production is forecast to total 308 million bushels this year, up from 291 million bushels in 2007. If realized, this would be the state's largest corn crop on record since 1982.

### **Soybeans**

On the flip side, USDA has lowered its projections for the country's soybean harvest from a month ago. U.S. soybean production is now estimated at 3 billion bushels, down 27 million bushels from the July projection and down 7 percent from record-high production in 2006. Still, the forecast is up 15 percent from last year and, if realized, would be the country's fourth-largest soybean crop on record. Nationally, soybean yields are expected to average 40.5 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushels from 2007.

"While the weather in July turned almost ideal for corn throughout much of the Corn Belt, the soybean crop continued to struggle with later plantings and uneven stands," said Francl.

Michigan paints a different story. Here, the state's soybean production is expected to total 77.5 million bushels, up 14.2 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 41 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from 2007

According to Francl, plenty of time remains for the national soybean outlook to improve.

"The crucial pollination period for corn typically occurs in July, while soybean pollination typically takes place in August," he said. "Soybeans are now in the flowering and pod-filling mode so a better assessment of the crop's condition will be forthcoming in USDA's September report."



### **Additional crops**

In what could be another record for the state, Michigan's sugar beet crop is on pace to produce a record-setting yield of 24 tons per acre, up 0.6 tons from 2007. Production, however, is estimated at 3 million tons, down slightly from 3.5 million tons in 2007.

In other commodities, Michigan's winter wheat harvest recently wrapped up with yields of 70 bushels per acre. Boehm noted that "later harvested wheat in the Thumb and north that received several rain events suffered quality losses due to sprouting."

Meanwhile, the state's dry bean growers expect their crop to yield 1,650 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from last year. Michigan all hay yield is forecast at 3.12 tons per acre, up 0.45 tons over last year.

Wait and see Boehm cautions that there is still "a ways to go" before fall harvest and warmer temperatures are needed to bring the spring-planted crops to full maturity.

"Concern about moisture and heat units will soon transition to worries about prospects for an early frost," he said. "Michigan crop potential is very good, but nothing is certain until the crop is in the bin."

Consumers, farmers expected to give COOL law warm reception Country-of-origin labeling on select grocery food begins next month

Contact: Ernie Birchmeier, (800) 292-2680, ext. 2024 or Ken Nye, ext. 2020

## MFB members appointed to Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council

Contact: Scott Piggott, (800) 292-2680, ext. 2021

Two Farm Bureau members have been appointed to Michigan's new Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council. They are Scott Piggott, manager of Michigan Farm Bureau's Agricultural Ecology Department, and Robert Walther, a Clio potato grower.

Water legislation recently signed into law, specifically Public Act 189 of 2008, instructed the state to establish the council. One of the council's tasks is to study, test, evaluate and make recommendations to state leadership concerning the roll out of a new computerized water use assessment tool that will help water users understand if a new use will adversely impact the environment. The assessment tool is being phased in from Oct. 1 to Feb. 1, 2009.

*In addition, the council is charged with:*

Making recommendations on how to reconcile conflicts in state laws related to water use.

Making recommendations on the development and implementation of the state's water conservation and efficiency program under the Great Lakes Compact.

Developing a framework to evaluate preventative measures designed to prevent adverse resource impacts.

In consultation with academic institutions and other nonprofit organizations, making recommendations regarding educational materials related to the use and availability of water resources.

House Speaker Andy Dillon appointed Walther to represent agricultural interests on the council. Piggott, an appointee to the Governor's former Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council, was appointed to the new council by Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop. He'll represent a statewide agricultural organization.

Feral swine expert to conduct public info meetings in September

Contact: Ernie Birchmeier, (800) 292-2680, ext. 2024

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### FARM BUREAU QUICK FACTS:

#### Hot dogs

All hot dogs are cured and cooked sausages that consist of mainly pork, beef, chicken and turkey or a combination of meat and poultry. Other ingredients include water, curing agents and spices, such as garlic, salt, sugar, ground mustard, nutmeg, coriander and white pepper.

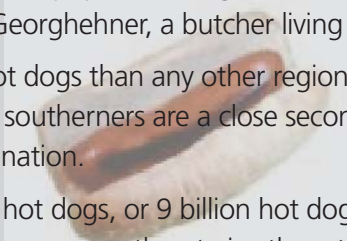
Sausage is one of the oldest forms of processed food, having been mentioned in Homer's *Odyssey* as far back as the 9th Century B.C. Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, is traditionally credited with originating the frankfurter. However, this claim is disputed by those who assert that the popular sausage, known as a "dachshund" or "little-dog" sausage, was created in the late 1600s by Johann Georghehner, a butcher living in Coburg, Germany.

Midwesterners eat more pork and beef hot dogs than any other region of the country. Westerners eat more poultry hot dogs than any other region; however, southerners are a close second. Easterners prefer all-beef hot dogs and consume more than anywhere else in the nation.

Americans purchase 350 million pounds of hot dogs, or 9 billion hot dogs, at retail stores annually. It's estimated Americans consume 20 billion hot dogs a year, more than twice the retail sales figures. That works out to about 70 hot dogs per person each year.

Hot dogs are served in 95 percent of homes in the United States. Fifteen percent of hot dogs are purchased from street vendors, and 9 percent are purchased at ballparks.

*Source: National Hot Dog and Sausage Council*



## AGRITIPS:

### ***EPA officials tour Michigan farms to get to root of issues***

This week staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) traded the familiar turf of their Washington, D.C., headquarters and Region 5 office in Chicago for the fertile soils of farms in southwest Michigan.



Just under a dozen national and regional EPA employees were treated to farm tours in Van Buren and Allegan counties as part of an annual event coordinated

by the Michigan Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Alliance. This year's event began Tuesday evening and continued through Thursday.

The activity aims to get EPA officials "on the ground and on the farm" to speak with farmers about how EPA decision-making impacts their operations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for farmers to demonstrate to the EPA how they are proactively implementing IPM strategies to manage pests in manners that reduce pesticide use.

As a member of the Michigan IPM Alliance, the Michigan Processing Apple Growers Division of Farm Bureau's Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association was involved in the event. According to Dawn Drake, manager of the Michigan Processing Apple Growers Division, the event set the stage for discussion on, among other things, the expected phase-out of azinphos methyl in 2012. The insecticide is more commonly known in Michigan under the brand name Guthion, and is vital to the production of apples, cherries and blueberries - Michigan's three largest fruit crops.



The phase-out is a big concern for Michigan fruit farmers because there aren't many alternatives currently on the market to replace the product, said Drake, and the ones that are available are costly. Furthermore,

Guthion is widely used in Michigan because, in many cases, it is the only real option that provides effective insect pest control and, at the same time, minimizes resistance management concerns and maximizes the use of IPM strategies. Forced to rely on less-effective alternatives, farmers say they'll wind up applying more insecticides in the long run.

Contact: Dawn Drake, (800) 292-2653, or Ken Nye, (800) 292-2680, ext. 2020

### **Reminders**



- CAG's have online resources available. The Loop, Discussion Topics, Discussion Response Form, Report Form, Questions and the Fun Page are all available to view and print by visiting [www.michfb.com/cag](http://www.michfb.com/cag).
- Completed set up sheets can be mailed directly to your county administrative manager. Remember: Discussion Leaders are designated to receive all materials, so make sure the person designated as DL is an active member of your group.
- Any suggestions or ideas for future articles, discussion topics or fun pages can be e-mailed to [apline@michfb.com](mailto:apline@michfb.com) or sent to Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 West Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 Attention: Amy Pline
- "FB Update" (DVD) are mailed quarterly
- Please send your completed committee set-up sheets into the home office.