2010 Corn And Soybean Crop For Kentucky

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The growing season for most of Kentucky can best be described as hot and dry, resulting in reduced yields for both the corn and soybean crop. Temperatures were exceedingly hot with an above average number of days exceeding 90°F from June through August. The hot temperatures along with the deficit rainfall stressed the corn and soybean crops. Rainfall was very scattered throughout the summer. Some localized areas received timely rains, but for most areas, rainfall was lacking resulting in an extreme, extended drought during the summer. The drought was particularly evident in most of West Kentucky.

Corn Crop: Corn planting proceeded rapidly and progress was 25-30 percent above normal with 90 percent planted by early May. However, heavy rainfall in early May resulted in flooding damage in areas and the need for replanting. Hot temperatures during pollination and silking also resulted in pollination problems and grain fill was hampered by the drought. Depending on rainfall, reported yields ranged from 50-60 bushels per acre to over 200 bushels per acre. The state average corn yield for Kentucky in 2010 is projected at 128 bushels per acre. This is well below the record state average corn yield of 165 bushels per acre achieved in 2009.

Soybean Crop: Planting progress was ahead of normal; however, the hot and dry summer caused pod abortion and stressed seed fill. Depending on rainfall, reported yields range from 10-15 bushels per acre to over 80 bushels per acre. Double-cropped soybeans were particularly affected by the drought conditions. The state average soybean yield for Kentucky in 2010 is projected at 36 bushels per acre. This is well below the record state average soybean yield of 48 bushels per acre achieved in 2009.

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