

2010 Wheat Performance Information Available



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For reasons outside of the producer's control, there has been a significant decrease in Illinois wheat acreage during the past two years. Wet summer growing seasons have delayed corn and soybean harvests, and low wheat prices have all conspired to either discourage or totally prevent wheat planting. The 2010 wheat harvest of less than 350,000 acres is the smallest acreage harvested since records began being kept.

Prospects for planting wheat this fall look better than they have for several years. A timely corn and soybean planting last spring, followed by above average temperatures this summer, means that those crops will be harvested early enough to plant wheat.

Wheat prices have also recovered somewhat, helping increase the potential for profitable production. Wheat remains a viable and profitable crop, and adds diversification to cropping systems that focus primarily on corn and soybean. In fact, research looking at the net returns of different crop rotational systems indicates that a corn-soybean-wheat-doublecrop soybean rotation compares quite favorably to continuous corn rotations. As an added benefit, diversified crop rotations can minimize the negative impact of adverse weather, disease or insect outbreaks compared to a mono-crop rotation.

For growers planning to include wheat in the rotation next year, variety information and yield results from University of Illinois' 2010 Wheat Performance Trials is now available online at <http://vt.cropsi.uiuc.edu/>. Δ

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