

# Soybeans Take Hit In 2010, Look To Rebound In 2011

## LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

In a year of depressed prices and little rain, Arkansas's soybean crop experienced its lowest yield since 2005.

"The state average in 2010 was 35 bushels per acre, which is four bushels lower than the record state average of 39 bushels per acre set in 2004," said Jeremy Ross, assistant professor and soybean agronomist with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

"This year Arkansas was split, with the southern half having good yields and the northern half having somewhat poorer yields because many of the fields in the southern half of the state were planted early, and were not impacted as much by the heat and dry conditions as the fields in the north. Much of the soybean crop was setting pods during mid-July to mid-August, and any stress during pod set can reduce yield and seed quality."

Even though a large portion of the soybean crop is irrigated, the extended heat stressed the

soybean plants, which is why the state average was lower than what has been seen the past several years. The state average of soybean yields was the lowest since 2005; in fact, soybean-planted acreage in Arkansas was down to 3.19 million acres in 2010; the highest planted acreage over the last 10 years was in 2009: 3.42 million acres.

"The good news is the high soybean commodity price we have seen in the last six months could increase the acreage in 2011 toward that we saw in 2009," Ross said.

While heat and drought hindered growth and yield, soybean farmers did not have to deal with one problem – disease.

"There was very little crop disease this year because it was just so hot and dry for so long," Ross explained. "The chief pest problem was worms, and bollworms and loopers had to be treated up to four times in certain soybean fields." △



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