

News Article

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Highlights of Recent Agricultural Production

Where did Whitley County rank recently in corn production among all other Indiana counties? What was a recent state-wide yield for soybeans? These and other questions are addressed in the annual *Indiana Agricultural Statistics* bulletin, recently posted online.

Statewide in 2018, Indiana ranks as follows on crops among all states: corn for grain, 5th; soybeans, 4th; peppermint, 4th; spearmint, 3rd; all tomatoes, 3rd; cantaloupe, 3rd; watermelon, 5th; and pumpkins, 4th. In livestock, Indiana ranks 5th on all hogs (as of Dec. 1, 2018), and 2nd in chickens (as of Dec. 1, 2018). We ranked 9th in pig crop, 4th in turkeys raised, and 2nd in total eggs produced.

Indiana farmers received \$10.7 billion in cash receipts from marketings in 2018. Marketed crops totaled \$6.91 billion (64.6% of total), while livestock receipts came in at \$3.8 billion, for 35.4% of the total. Corn was the leading source of income, amounting to \$3.32 billion. Soybeans were second at \$3.06 billion. Meat animals were third at \$1.55 billion. Poultry and eggs were fourth at \$1.34 billion, followed by dairy at \$649 million. These five commodity groups accounted for almost 93% of cash receipts in 2018. Food grains, vegetables, and other livestock and crops (including fruit and nuts) make up the difference.

This is how Whitley County ranked among all Indiana counties for crops in 2018: corn, 45th; soybeans, 47th; wheat, 6th; alfalfa hay, 8th, and other hay, 30th. For livestock production, Whitley County ranked 62nd in number of beef cows, and 33rd in number of milk cows (as of Jan. 2019).

In 2017, Whitley County ranked 13th in all hogs, 56th in all sheep, 28th in chickens, and 57th in turkeys. Of the 214,764 total acres in Whitley County, 176,255 of those acres were in farms (2017 Census of Agriculture). 154,095 acres were in cropland, 3748 acres were pastureland, and 10,252 acres are woodlands. There were 696 Whitley County farms in 2017, at an average size of 253 acres/farm.

For average crop yields in Whitley County in 2018, corn came in at 180.7 bushels per acre, soybeans were 56.1 bushels per acre, wheat was 76.9 bushels per acre, alfalfa hay was 3.15 tons per acre, and other hay was 2.6 tons per acre.

Total ag receipts in Whitley County in 2017 totaled \$90.89 million, with crops contributing almost \$66.06 million, and livestock contributing nearly \$24.84 million.

However, net income paints a more accurate picture. Cash receipts plus government payments, minus expenses, provided a realized net income to Whitley County farmers of \$8.59 million in 2017. This net was just less than \$13.40 million in 2016; in 2015, the net was a loss just shy of \$1.82 million.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Indiana Field Office, publishes the *Indiana Agricultural Statistics* bulletin each fall. It contains current and historic data for all major crops, livestock, economic and related data. Find the current (2018-19) and past reports at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/index.php.