



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### **Hardin County Extension News Release**

For Further Information Contact:

Mark Badertscher

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator

Phone – 419-674-2297

E-Mail – badertscher.4@osu.edu

For Immediate Release – November 12, 2015

## **Extension Rainfall Report for Growing Season**

by Mark Badertscher, OSU Extension Educator

*Hardin County* - With the help of fifteen volunteer rainfall reporters, the Hardin County Extension office has collected unofficial township rainfall data for the past twenty-three consecutive years. The 2015 growing season started with a relatively warm and dry planting period. Although most corn was planted early to mid May, excessive rainfall starting later in the month greatly reduced yields. This continuous rainfall persisted into mid July. During this time period, the area didn't have five good crop growing days in a row.

Root systems were weakened by the excessive rainfall, restricting their growth. A dryer period followed in August and September, accompanied by mild temperatures. Timely rains in August allowed plants to have access to water. This was important because inadequate root development restricted available water that could have been otherwise obtained from the soil at deeper depths. Unfortunately, several cornfields were damaged beyond repair from earlier rains, causing variability in yields. Inability of soils to drain excess water flooded out several acres of soybeans, causing overall yield reductions in several fields.

During the growing season, from April 15 through October 15, average rainfall was 24.70 inches. This is 1.01 inches above the ten-year average growing season precipitation, and 3.66 more inches of rain than last year's growing season. Harvest came earlier this year, with most fields being done by November or before. The most rainfall recorded during the growing

season was 30.38 inches in Liberty Township by Phil Epley. Hale Township was close behind with 29.71 inches as reported by Tim Ramsey. The least amount of rain was recorded in Goshen Township by Brien Brothers Farm, with 20.82 inches for the season. A range of 9.56 inches in rainfall accumulation from high to low across the county is an indication of the variability in rainfall throughout Hardin County in 2015.

Corn yields were inconsistent, depending on the area rainfall, and ability to drain excess water. Some yields varied greatly in fields, bringing in lower bushels. However, moisture levels in corn were dryer, eliminating the need for running grain dryers as much as other years. Soybeans did better than expected in areas that did not flood out, however these yields were also lower than normal. Lower yields for the growing season were also accompanied with lower crop prices. Fall planting of winter wheat has emerged with good stands initially in areas that had adequate soil moisture, but then growth slowed because of the dry fall. Cover crop emergence and growth has also been challenged in some areas for the same reason. Because of the early harvest, there has been a large amount of fall tillage in the county. This has also allowed for fertilizer and lime applications in selected fields.

*Editor: See attached table for your use.*

**Hardin County Extension Rainfall Report for October 1-15, 2015 (recorded in inches)**

Township	Reporter	October 1-15 2015	Growing Season (from Apr. 15- 2015)
Blanchard Township	Crop Production Services	0.30	27.60
Buck Township	Heritage Cooperative/Kenton	0.07	20.94
Cessna Township	Steve Lowery	0.20	24.42
Dudley Township	Dale Rapp	0.10	24.91
Goshen Township	Brien Bros. Farm	0.00	20.82
Hale Township	Tim Ramsey	0.20	29.71
Jackson Township	Jim McVitty	0.24	25.26
Liberty Township	Phil Epley	0.52	30.38
Lynn Township	Jan Layman	0.10	21.84
Marion Township	Mark Lowery	0.30	25.00
McDonald Township	Jerry Stout	0.15	25.60
Pleasant Township	Robert McBride	0.19	24.95
Roundhead Township	Mike Lautenschlager	0.25	25.10
Taylor Creek Township	Silver Creek Supply	0.49	21.89
Washington Township	Randy Preston	0.32	22.07
	<b>Average</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>24.70</b>