



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Hardin County Extension News Release

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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-six consecutive years. The 2018 growing season began with an April rainfall that allowed a good start to the planting season. Rains were spread out through the month which set the tone for the growing season. The month of May brought a rainfall total about an inch less than the ten year average. Favorable spring weather allowed for a good start for the corn and soybeans planted in Hardin County.

Moderate rains continued in June, allowing adequate soil moisture for growth of crops. These rains also promoted growth of wheat and hay crops in the area. In addition, weeds thrived with the moisture if not properly managed through herbicide programs. Spraying of pesticides and application of nitrogen fertilizer took place as weather conditions allowed. Because of the regular weekly rains, hay fields continued to grow with little opportunity for mowing and baling. This increased tonnage of forages, providing an opportunity for additional feed.

July followed the pattern of consistent rains in most areas of the county with only a few townships recording below average rainfall. Forages continued to grow, allowing for good cuttings as other crops took advantage of the warmer growing degree days and adequate moisture to grow at above average rates. Pollination was aided in most areas by this timely rainfall and seasonal temperatures. Vegetative growth took off and set the course for an opportune harvest, providing that weekly rains would continue to fall throughout the growing season. Wheat was harvested with good yields, however a bit lower than expected but with good grain quality.

August brought an inch and a half more rain than normal, setting the stage for tall growth and good pod development in soybeans and heavy kernel fill in corn. Because of the above average rainfall in the late season, there was an opportunity for disease in both soybeans and corn. Some soybeans were affected late in the season, but not enough to lower yields in most fields. Some corn fields showed evidence of late season diseases and stalk rots as the growing season progressed.

Moderate rains continued in September and October, as the crops reached maturity a couple weeks earlier than normal. The first half of October brought an average of 1.97 inches of rain to the county, which is above the ten year average of 1.31 inches. The least amount of rainfall in the first half of October was 0.65 inches reported by Travis Ramsey in Hale Township. Mark Lowery reported 3.10 inches of rain in Marion Township for the same time period. These October amounts were 0.66 above the ten year average for Hardin County.

During the growing season, from April 15 through October 15, average rainfall was 25.28 inches, which made 2018 a good year. This is 1.14 inches above the ten-year average growing season precipitation, and 2.97 less inches of rain than last year's growing season. The difference was that this season's rainfall was more evenly spread out throughout the crop growing period. The most rainfall recorded during the growing season was 30.70 inches in Hale Township by Travis Ramsey. The least rainfall in the county was recorded in Pleasant Township by Robert McBride, with 20.96 inches for the season. Hale Township's growing season rainfall was 6.56 inches higher than the normal average rainfall in Hardin County as measured over the past ten years.

Soybean yields were higher this year due to good weather during key growth periods. Moderate and steady rains throughout the growing season allowed for good vegetative growth and opportunity to produce higher yielding grain. Soybean prices were lower, but with more bushels per acre to sell compared to last year. Corn yields have been very high around the county, causing a slower harvest and problems with storage availability. Moisture levels in corn were fairly dry at harvest time, reducing the need for running grain dryers as much as some years. Higher corn yields for this season were met by low corn prices.

Winter wheat acres and cover crops planted are off to a very good start with warm fall temperatures and adequate moisture. Herbicide, fertilizer, lime, and manure applications have happened in some fields. Much fall tillage has occurred around the county with some soybean and cornfields still waiting on drier ground conditions in order to finish the harvest.

Editor: See attached table for your use.

Hardin County Extension Rainfall Report for October 1-15, 2018 (recorded in inches)

Township	Reporter	October 1-15 2018	Growing Season (from Apr. 15- 2018)
Blanchard Township	Nutrien Ag Solutions	2.40	27.25
Buck Township	Heritage Coop./Kenton	2.09	26.23
Cessna Township	Madelyn Lowery	2.85	27.82
Dudley Township	Dale Rapp	1.15	27.28
Goshen Township	Brien Bros. Farm	1.91	21.78
Hale Township	Travis Ramsey	0.65	30.70
Jackson Township	Rick Weber	1.90	25.20
Liberty Township	Phil Epley	1.79	24.32
Lynn Township	Jan Layman	1.96	26.36
Marion Township	Mark Lowery	3.10	25.56
McDonald Township	Jerry Stout	1.18	22.74
Pleasant Township	Robert McBride	2.68	20.96
Roundhead Township	Mike Lautenschlager	2.35	25.50
Taylor Creek Township	Silver Creek Supply	1.61	23.46
Washington Township	Randy Preston	1.98	23.99
	Average	1.97	25.28