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CORN AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN 2011

Since about 1998, the planted acres of corn and soybean have been varying inversely. As harvested corn acres increase, soybean acres decrease and vice versa. The trends have been particularly striking since 2004 (Figure 1). In 2011, harvested corn acres were the highest they have been since 1944. Soybean acres decreased to levels comparable to those in 2004.

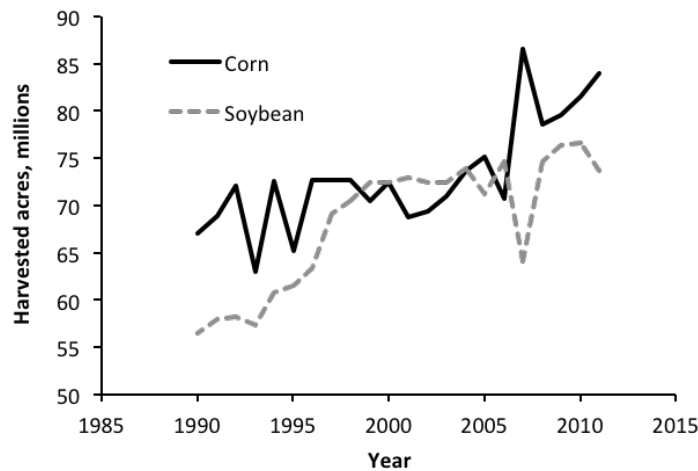


Figure 1. Harvested acres of corn and soybean from 1990 to 2011 (millions of acres).

Total corn production in 2011 of 12.4 billion bushels was up slightly from the average production of the previous 5 years. Although greater total production occurred, yield was lower in 2011 than the average of the previous 5 years, coming in at 147.2 bu/A.

U.S. corn statistics

	Year	Harvested acres, millions	Production, billion bu	Average yield, lb/A
	2011	84.0	12.4	147.2
5-yr. average:	2006 to 2010	79.3	12.2	154.2

The 3.06 billion bushel total soybean production represented a small decrease in 2011 compared to the average production of the previous 5 years. Yield was also down slightly, decreasing from an average of 42.4 bu/A in 2006 to 2010 to 41.5 bu/A in 2011.

U.S. soybean statistics

	Year	Harvested acres, millions	Production, billion bu	Average yield, lb/A
	2011	73.6	3.06	41.5
5-yr. average:	2006 to 2010	73.3	3.11	42.4

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Available at <http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/> (verified 2 May 2012).

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For more information, contact Dr. T. Scott Murrell, Northcentral Director, IPNI, 1851 Secretariat Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906. Phone: (765) 413-3343. E-mail: smurrell@ipni.net.

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