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Farm Update

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December 27, 2025

2025 Crop Year in Review

Commodity grain and forage production success, challenge, and failure hinge on the weather we receive each year. January was very cold in the first two weeks, with schools closed for a couple of days in the first week for the first measurable snow of the winter. The weather in the latter half of the month was warmer, with beautiful sunshine and temperatures in the mid-60s during the last week of the month.

Heavy rain fell over much of the county in the first week of February, setting the stage for the first of two floods this year. February was mild and rainy in the first half of the month, with 4-5 inches of rain falling on the 15th, with all creek watersheds already out of the bank. The temperatures dropped, and rain turned to 4" of snow falling on the 18 and 19th. Backwater froze to hang in the trees long after the water receded.

March arrived with a half inch of rain on the 5th, but otherwise warm and sunny the first two weeks before a well-predicted wind and hail event wreaked havoc across a wide swath of the county. Conditions dried enough to get some field work accomplished in the last week of March, but a second flood was set to return.

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Heavy rain patterns began April 2 and continued through April 4. Rivers still high from water in February exceeded capacity, with the Ohio and Green Rivers flooding low-lying fields for more than three weeks in some areas. Dry fields to plant were limited, but ideal conditions in the third and fourth weeks of April provided corn and soybean emergence in as few as 7 days. Totally out of the ordinary for April, planted crops which typically require two weeks or more to emerge.

The planting window in those two weeks of April would turn out to be the best offered in 2025. While the low-lying fields were still drying, May brought more rain, which interrupted planting and affected emergence with water ponding in many fields. May had up to 2 inches in the first week, one inch in the second week, and nearly 3 inches of rain on the 29th in some areas.

By now, there were two planting windows in the county, the crop planted in those two weeks in April, and everything else, strung along by intermittent rains. The end of the first week of June brought nearly 2 inches of rain to some areas in the county and more in the second week. The early corn was growing great with the heat and soil moisture. The first tassels emerged the week of the 16th.

Over half of the corn in the county was in full pollination by the first week of July, and the rest needed soil moisture to continue growth. Some areas in the northeast corner of the county received a nice 2-inch rain on the 5th, the rest of the county waited on forecasted rain chances, but were missed. Fortunately, much of the county did receive some rain in the third week, which resulted in the cancellation of the last two nights of the county fair. Hot, dry

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conditions returned in the last two weeks of July, except for a few lucky farms that received another big rain on the 28th.

The first two weeks of August were extremely hot and dry. The third and fourth weeks experienced cooler temperatures, but the dry conditions continued. Early-planted corn successfully pollinated but needed rain for grain fill. Late-planted corn needed rain to pollinate, and all soybeans needed rain, but especially the early-planted soybeans in the pod fill stage. Rain didn't come. By the end of the month, some of the earliest corn moisture was in the low 20s with some combines seen in the field late in the month.

By the second week of September, harvest was well underway. Yields of the earliest planted corn and soybeans were quite pleasing, but had limited acreage due to the flooded and delayed soil drying. County-wide corn was 25 bushels less than normal expectation, with some areas of the county experiencing far worse. Soybeans were 10 bushels less than normal, with some areas of the county experiencing far worse.

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