

Horticulture Research



Fruit and Vegetable Production Data Collection

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http://bit.ly/pfi_horticulture

In a Nutshell

- Thirteen farms participated in fruit and vegetable production recordkeeping.
- The purpose of the project was to create Iowa-specific production histories for:
 - producers to have baseline comparisons,
 - the advancement of **crop** insurance options,
 - and to provide information about typical Iowa production for lenders.
- Actual yields exceeded FSA-NAP yield estimates for most crop categories.
- Data collection will continue in 2014.

Project Timeline: February-December 2013

Project cooperators - left to right: Melissa and Andy Dunham, Tammy and Rob Faux, Mark Quee, and Jill Beebout.

Background

Iowa-specific production histories do not exist for most Iowa fruit and vegetable crops. Fruit and vegetable farmers have expressed they would like these numbers to compare their planting, harvest and yields with locally-relevant baselines. Insurers and lenders also need this information to better serve fruit and vegetable producers.

Fruit and vegetable producers currently have insufficient crop insurance options. Private and public insuring agencies both say they need more Iowa-specific, actual production history to improve insurance options for these farmers.

To date, the only available risk management in Iowa for fruit and vegetables is Farm Service Agency's Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). This program does not provide adequate risk management due to low number of allowable planting periods, high damage thresholds and low reimbursements based on Midwest wholesale prices. To the contrary, most Practical Farmers' producing fruits and vegetables sell into both retail and/or wholesale markets with higher revenue points.

Similarly, lenders need more information about fruit and vegetable production

potential to better assess the profit potential of these farms as well as assess the risk/benefit of lending to these farms.

Method

Data was collected according to NAP standards — as it is the only crop insurance option available for fruit and vegetable producers. Melissa Dunham of Grinnell Heritage Farm created the data sheets to ensure uniform data collection. Prior to data collection FSA, private insurers and Risk Management Agency all reviewed the data collection sheets for the project. Thirteen farms participated in this project for the 2013 growing season. Farmers reported data for 23

FSA crop categories: apples, asparagus, beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, greens, herbs, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, potatoes, sweet potatoes, shallots, squash, tomatoes, watermelon. Data represented 50 FSA type categories (sub-categories of crop categories). For example, onions tracked included types red, storage, sweet early, white and yellow hybrid. Summary data is included in this report. Full data is available at http://bit.ly/pfi horticulture.

Total harvest includes insect- and producer-caused damaged crops (damage not due to natural disaster). Total acreage includes walking paths in production areas.

Additional data beyond FSA requirements collected to enhance producer comparisons included: variety name, plant spacing, irrigation, planting notes and harvest notes.

Results and Discussion

Actual yields exceeded FSA-NAP yield estimates for all crop catagories and subcategories, except for one variety of onion and cabbage, and all varieties of potato (**Table 1**).

Production varied significantly across farms (**Tables 2 - 22**). These variances can be contributed to differences in production practices such as plant spacing and method, harvest methods, fertility practices, weed control, pest control, and environmental issues such as weather, soil health, weed pressure and pest pressure. If you are comparing yield between farms, please keep these and other variables in mind

Actual production data presented here has been tranformed to a per acre weighted average in order to provide standardized comparion with FSA-NAP. There are concerns with the validity of scaling up from, for example, 0.1 acres to 1 acre. This data serves as a baseline for on-going work; more samples from more farms across multiple years will increase the reliability of these numbers in the future.

Table 1	Actual production and FSA-NAP estimates					
Product	Variety	# of farms	Unit	PFI Yield	FSA-NAP (2012) Yield	
Apples			42# Cont	539	196	
	Common	1		514	196	
	Specialty	1		676	196	
Asparagus	Variety Not Stated	2	Lbs	351	n/a	
Beans			Cwt	108	n/a	
	Green	3		124	n/a	
	Pole	1		119	n/a	
	Snap Wax	1		48	n/a	
Broccoli	Variety Not Stated	1	Lbs	7985	n/a	
Cabbage			100# Cont	33	n/a	
	Hybrid Cabbage	1		15	116	
	Savoy	1		73	98	
Carrots	Hybrid	5	Cwt	323	400	
Cauliflower	Variety Not Stated	1	Cwt	7	n/a	
Corn	Sweet	1	8# Cont	849	471/941	
Cucumbers			Cwt	321	62/287	
	Common-HT	1		463	n/a	
	Common-OD	1		317	n/a	
Eggplant	Oriental	1	Cwt	291	n/a	
Garlic			100# Cont	68	n/a	
	Seed garlic				n/a	
	Common-scapes	2		3	n/a	
	Common-whole	3		71	n/a	
Greens			Lbs	34270	n/a	
	Arugula	1		1200	n/a	
	Common Kale	2		48456	n/a	
	Red Swisschard	1		55697	n/a	
Herbs			Lbs	14765	n/a	
	Basil-HT	1		26293	n/a	
	Basil-OD	1		9102	n/a	
Lettuce			Cwt	105	n/a	
	Crisphead	1		283	n/a	
	Leaf Lettuce	1		94	n/a	
	Romaine Lettuce	1		204	n/a	
Onions			Cwt	261	n/a	
	Reds	2		236	269	
	Storage	3		226	n/a	
	Sweet early	1		311	269	
	Whites	1		427	269	
	Yellow Hybrid	1		323	269	
Peas			Lbs	3934	n/a	
	Snap	1		5058	n/a	
	Snow	1		2712	n/a	
	Sugar	1		6734	3492	

Table 1 - co	ont.	-1		NAD	
Peppers	Actual pro	oductio	on and FSA-I	NAP estima	n/a
Peppers	none	1	CWL	109	n/a
	Oriental Red	1		109	
	Yellow	1		114	n/a
Potatoes	reliow	1	Cwt	89	n/a
Potatoes	Financina	2	CWL	79	n/a
	Fingerling				n/a
	Reds	4		89	308
	Russets	1		110	308
	Specialty	4		84	n/a
	Whites	4		110	308
	Yellow	4		87	308
Sweet Potatoes	Beauregard	3	Cwt	143	n/a
Shallots	Variety Not Stated	1	Lbs	13250	n/a
Squash			Cwt	159	n/a
	Acorn Squash	1		176	79
	Buttercup	1		95	n/a
	Butternut Squash	2		209	79
	Spaghetti Squash	1		146	97
	Summer Squash	1		263	97
	Winter Squash	1		89	79
	Zucchini Squash	1		236	97
Tomatoes			Cwt	402	n/a
	Hybrid	1		683	103/128
	none	1		303	n/a
	Yellow	1		151	n/a
Watermelon	Ice Box/ Sugar Babies	1	Cwt	83	n/a

Table 1: Actual production (presented as weighted averages) collected during this project and FSA-NAP Olympic averages. Olympic averages—five year history—are currently used to set the Transitional (T) yield for producers who do not have actual yields the first year of their NAP coverage. Olympic averages are fiveyear averages set by the State Committee from existing production data. These are only currently available for a limited number of crops. The information from this project will be included in setting Olympic averages for the 2015 growing season. Producers with NAP coverage should be providing production records to their local FSA Office so their Actual Production History (APH) for the crop can be properly updated. Where applicable FSA-NAP yield numbers include nonirrrigated / irrigated production estimates where applicable. HT = high tunnel; OD = outdoor production. 42# Cont = number of 42 pound containers; Lbs = pounds; Cwt = hundredweight; 8# Cont = number of 8 pound containters; 100# Con = number of 100 pound containers.



Table 2							
Apple							
Producer number	P9003						
Location	outdoor						
Direct or Transplant	transplant						
Planting Date	4/2007						
Mulch	none						
Irrigation	no						
Harvest Date Range	8/8 -10/20/2013						
In-row Spacing (ft)	6						
Between-row Spacing (ft)	16						
Sum of # Acres							
Apple - All	0.85						
Common	0.73						
Specialty	0.13						
Per acre weighted average yi	ield (pounds)						
Apple - All	22635						
Common	21590						
Specialty	28404						

Table 3								
Asparagus								
Producer number	P9006	P9010	Total					
Location	outdoor	outdoor						
Direct or Transplant	transplant	transplant						
Planting Date	6/15/99	5/3/11						
Mulch	none	none						
Irrigation	no	no						
Harvest Date Range	5/3-6/4/13	5/3-5/17/13						
In-row Spacing (in)	12.00	15.00						
Between-row Spacing (in)	48.00	48.00						
Sum	of # Acres							
Asparagus -Variety Not Stated	0.200	0.870*	1.070					
Per acre weighted	Per acre weighted average yield (pounds)							
Asparagus -Variety Not Stated	1610	61*	351					

^{*}First year harvest from this planting



Table 4					
		Beans			
Producer number	P9004	P9009	P9011	P9012	Total
Location	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	high tunnel	
Direct or Transplant	direct	direct	direct	direct	
Planting Date Range	5/14-6/4/13	7/14/13	6/12/13	6/7-7/4/13	
Mulch	none	none	none	none	
Irrigation	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Harvest Date Range	7/6-8/23/13	8/29-10/19/13	8/9-10/8/13	7/25-10/17/13	
In-row Spacing (in)	1.00	1.00	3.00	2.00	
Between-row Spacing (in)	24.00	60.00	70.00	10.00	
		Sum of # Acres	;		
Beans - All	0.083	0.068	0.002	0.006	0.159
Green	0.083	0.034		0.006	0.123
Pole			0.002		0.002
Snap Wax		0.034			0.034
	Per acre we	eighted average y	rield (pounds)		
Beans - All	11023	11663	11935	63246	10777
Green	11023	6904		63246	12423
Pole			11935		11935
Snap Wax		4759			4759

Table 5	
Broccoli	
Producer number	P9012
Location	outdoor
Direct or Transplant	transplant
Planting Date	6/20/13
Mulch	none
Irrigation	no
Harvest Date Range	8/20- 10/29/2013
In-row Spacing (in)	12
Between-row Spacing (in)	48
Sum of # Acres	
Broccoli	0.064
Per acre weighted average yie	ld (pounds)
Broccoli	7985

Table 6 Cabbage	
Producer number	P9013
Location	outdoor
Direct or Transplant	transplant
Planting Date	7/12/13
Mulch	none
Irrigation	no
Harvest Date Range	11/21/13
In-row Spacing (in)	12
Between-row Spacing (in)	24
Sum of # Acres	
Cabbage - All	0.769
Hybrid cabbage	0.528
Savoy	0.241
Per acre weighted average yie	ld (pounds)
Cabbage - All	3316
Hybrid cabbage	1515
Savoy	7260

Table 7								
	Carrots							
Producer number	P9004	P9005	P9009	P9012	P9013	Total		
Location	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor			
Direct or Transplant	direct	direct	direct	direct	direct			
Planting Date Range	4/6-7/24/13	5/12-7/15/13	4/5-4/28/13	5/18/13	7/12/13			
Mulch	none	none	none	none	none			
Irrigation	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes			
Harvest Date Range	7/6-11/2/13	8/12-11/8/13	7/5-9/2/13	8/21-10/29/13	10/17-11/15/13			
In-row Spacing (in)	0.20	1.00 - 4.00	0.80	1.00	1.00			
Between-row Spacing (in)	4.00	15.00	8.00	2.00	2.70			
		Sum o	of # Acres					
Carrots - Hybrid	0.103	0.175	0.038	0.014	0.574	0.905		
	Po	er acre weighted a	verage yield (po	ounds)				
Carrots - Hybrid	41891	15110	38226	44438	35196	32348		

Cauliflower						
Caulillower						
Producer number	P9006					
Location	outdoor					
Direct or Transplant	transplant					
Planting Date	5/23/13					
Mulch	none					
Irrigation	no					
Harvest Date Range	10/6/13					
In-row Spacing (in)	24					
Between-row Spacing (in)	24					
Sum of # Acres						
Cauliflower	0.060					
Per acre weighted average yield (pounds)						
Cauliflower	650					

Table 9						
Sweet Corn						
Producer number	P9008					
Location	outdoor					
Direct or Transplant	direct					
Planting Date	5/24/13					
Mulch	none					
Irrigation	no					
Harvest Date Range	8/7-8/28/13					
Plant Population	28,000					
Sum of # Acres						
Sweet Corn	1					
Per acre weighted average yield (pounds)						
Sweet Corn	6789					

Table 10					
		Garlic			
Producer number	P9001	P9002	P9006	P9011	Total
Location	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	
Direct or Transplant	transplant	direct	direct	direct	
Planting Date Range	9/28/12	10/30-11/5-12	10/25/13	10/14/12	
Mulch	straw	straw	straw	straw	
Irrigation	no	no	no	no	
Harvest Date Range	7/10-7/16/13	5/17-7/28/13	8/19/13	6/18/-7/5/13	
In-row Spacing (in)	4.00	4.00	6.00	10.00	
Between-row Spacing (in)	36.00	30.00	18.00	9.00	
		Sum of # Acres			
Garlic - all	0.256	0.014	0.080	0.028	0.364
Seed				0.014	0.014
Common-scapes		0.006		0.014	0.020
Common-whole	0.256	0.008	0.080		0.344
	Per acre we	eighted average yi	eld (pounds)		
Garlic - all	8803	n/a	1763	n/a	6771
Seed				2449	2449
Common-scapes		470		251	315
Common-whole	8803	7770	1763		7141

Table 11							
	Gre	ens					
Producer number	P9001	P9006	P9011	Total			
Location	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor				
Direct or Transplant	transplant	direct	both				
Planting Date Range	4/28/13	5/18/13	4/13-4/30/13				
Mulch	none	none	none				
Irrigation	no	yes	yes				
Harvest Date Range	6/10- 11/24/13	6/18-6/21/13	5/28- 10/25/13				
In-row Spacing (in)	16.00	1.50	18.00				
Between-row Spacing (in)	36.00	14.00	14.00				
	Sum of	# Acres					
Greens - all	0.065	0.030	0.004	0.099			
Arugula		0.030		0.030			
Common Kale	0.065		0.002	0.067			
Red Swisschard			0.002	0.002			
Per acr	e weighted av	erage yield (po	unds)				
Greens - all	47335	1200	71514	34270			
Arugula		1200		1200			
Common Kale	47335		91616	48456			
Red Swisschard			55697	55697			



Table 12 Herbs	
Producer number	P9010
Location	high tunnel & outdoor
Direct or Transplant	transplant
Planting Date	6/05/13
Mulch	none
Irrigation	no
Harvest Date Range	9/03 - 10/18/13
In-row Spacing (in)	12
Between-row Spacing (in)	12
Sum of # Acres	
Herbs	0.018
Basil - Outdoor	0.006
Basil - High Tunnel	0.012
Per acre weighted average yie	ld (pounds)
Herbs	14765.03
Basil - Outdoor	26292.68
Basil - High Tunnel	9101.93

Table 14

Table 13							
	Lettuce						
Producer number	P9010	P9011	P9012	Total			
Location	high tunnel & outdoor	outdoor	high tunnel				
Direct or Transplant	direct	transplant	transplant				
Planting Date Range	3/26-4/28/13	4/27/13	4/5/13				
Mulch	none	none	none				
Irrigation	yes	yes	yes				
Harvest Date Range	5/3-7/5/13	6/4-6/21/13	5/10-6/3/13				
In-row Spacing (in)	broadcast	7.00	8.00				
Between-row Spacing (in)	broadcast	10.00	10.00				
	Sum of #	Acres					
Lettuce - all	0.033	0.001	0.002	0.035			
Crisphead		0.001		0.001			
Leaf Lettuce	0.033			0.033			
Romaine Lettuce			0.002	0.002			
Per acre weighted average yield (pounds)							
Lettuce - all	9404	28261	20376	10474			
Crisphead		28261		28261			
Leaf Lettuce	9404			9404			
Romaine Lettuce			20376	20376			

Onion						
Producer number	P9001	P9002	P9011	Total		
Location	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor			
Direct or Transplant	transplant	direct	transplant			
Planting Date Range	4/26/13	5/2/13	4/16-4/20/13			
Mulch	none	none	none			
Irrigation	no	yes	yes			
Harvest Date Range	8/6/13	8/16/13	7/2-7/27/13			
In-row Spacing (in)	3.00	5.00	5.50			
Between-row Spacing (in)	36.00	30.00	8.00			
	Sum of	# Acres				
Onions - all	0.089	0.005	0.005	0.099		
Reds	0.030		0.000	0.030		
Storage	0.030	0.005	0.003	0.037		
Sweet early			0.002	0.002		
Whites			0.001	0.001		
Yellow Hybrid	0.030			0.030		
Per a	cre weighted av	erage yield (p	oounds)			
Onions - all	25875	15682	28401	26067		
Reds	23595		29663	23649		
Storage	21763	15682	42548	22606		
Sweet early			31073	31073		
Whites			42720	42720		
Yellow Hybrid	32267			32267		

Table 15			
	Peas		
Producer number	P9009	P9011	Total
Location	outdoor	outdoor	
Direct or Transplant	direct	direct	
Planting Date	4/05/13	4/13/13	
Mulch	none	none	
Irrigation	no	no	
Harvest Date Range	6/18 - 7/5/13	6/11- 6/28/13	
In-row Spacing (in)	1	2	
Between-row Spacing (in)	60	10	
Sun	n of # Acres		
Peas - All	0.104	0.002	0.106
Snap	0.052		0.052
Snow	0.052		0.052
Sugar		0.002	0.002
Per acre weighte	d average y	ield (pounds)
Peas - All	3885	6734	3934
Snap	5058		5058
Snow	2712		2712
Sugar		6734	6734

Table 16 Pepper	
Producer number	P9004
Location	outdoor
Direct or Transplant	transplant
Planting Date	5/17/13
Mulch	none
Irrigation	yes
Harvest Date Range	7/29 - 9/26/13
In-row Spacing (in)	18
Between-row Spacing (in)	72
Sum of # Acres	
Peppers - All	0.125
none	0.019
Oriental Red	0.053
Yellow	0.053
Per acre weighted average yie	ld (pounds)
Peppers - All	11744
none	10864
Oriental Red	12418
Yellow	11387



Table 17						
Sweet Potato						
Producer number	P9007	P9011	P9013	Total		
Location	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor			
Direct or Transplant	transplant	transplant	transplant			
Planting Date	5/23/13	6/4/13	6/15/13			
Mulch	plastic	none	plastic			
Irrigation	yes	yes	yes			
Harvest Date Range	10/2-10/16/13	9/20-9/22/13	10/1-10/4/13			
In-row Spacing (in)	18.00	12.00	12.00			
Between-row Spacing (in)	72.00	48.00	60.00			
	Sum of #	# Acres				
Potatoes, Sweet - Beauregard	0.145	0.005	0.359	0.509		
Per a	Per acre weighted average yield (pounds)					
Potatoes, Sweet - Beauregard	21053	34954	11291	14318		

Table 18								
	20000	20002	Potat			20011	20010	
Producer number	P9002	P9003	P9004	P9005	P9009	P9011	P9012	Total
Location	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor	
Direct or Transplant	direct	direct	direct	direct	direct	direct	direct	
Planting Date Range	5/14- 6/8/13	4/28- 4/29/13	4/6- 4/30/13	5/15- 5/25/13	4/30/13	4/13- 5/8/13	5/16/13	
Mulch	straw	none	none	none	none	none	none	
Irrigation	yes & no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	
Harvest Date Range	9/2- 11/10/13	6/13- 9/13/13	7/6- 10/10/13	8/5- 10/25/13	9/16- 10/15/13	7/9- 7/26/13	10/21- 10/27/13	
In-row Spacing (in)	12.00 - 18.00	10.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	9.70	12.00	
Between-row Spacing (in)	30.00 - 48.00	48.00	32.00	60.00	60.00	32.00	16.00	
			Sum of #	Acres				
Potatoes - all	0.019	1.401	0.359	0.819	0.066	0.016	0.037	2.716
Fingerling Potatoes	0.007		0.054					0.062
Reds		0.775	0.018	0.332		0.005		1.130
Russets							0.018	0.018
Specialty	0.011	0.151	0.017				0.018	0.198
Whites		0.059	0.083		0.066	0.005		0.212
Yellow		0.417	0.186	0.487		0.005		1.095
		Per acre w	veighted avera	age yield (po	unds)			
Potatoes - all	10980	9395	15149	5081	8904	19966	11086	8937
Fingerling Potatoes	2450		8602					7869
Reds		9172	12337	7776		18790		8856
Russets							11042	11042
Specialty	16440	6848	13313				11130	8370
Whites		6273	15590		8904	18228		11006
Yellow		11171	17307	3240		22878		8745

Table 19 Shallots				
Producer number	P9011			
Location	outdoor			
Direct or Transplant	transplant			
Planting Date	5/10/13			
Mulch	none			
Irrigation	yes			
Harvest Date Range	7/27/13			
In-row Spacing (in)	4			
Between-row Spacing (in)	8			
Sum of # Acres				
Shallots - variety not stated	0.001			
Per acre weighted average yield (pounds)				
Shallots - variety not stated	13250			

Table 20 Watermelon				
Producer number	P9013			
Location	outdoor			
Direct or Transplant	transplant			
Planting Date	5/10/13			
Mulch	none			
Irrigation	yes			
Harvest Date Range	8/19 - 9/4/13			
In-row Spacing (in)	18			
Between-row Spacing (in)	60			
Sum of # Acres				
Watermelon - Ice Box / Sugar Babies	0.492			
Per acre weighted average yield (pounds)				
Watermelon - Ice Box / Sugar Babies	8259			

Table 21					
Table 21	Sq	uash			
Producer number	P9002	P9005	P9012	Total	
Location	outdoor	outdoor	outdoor		
Direct or Transplant	direct	direct	transplant		
Planting Date Range	6/18/13	6/13-6/14/13	6/12/13		
Mulch	none	none	mixed		
Irrigation	no	yes	yes		
Harvest Date Range	10/8-10/14/13	9/23-10/16/13	7/11-10/8/13		
In-row Spacing (in)	18.00	54.00	12.00		
Between-row Spacing (in)	36.00	60.00	60.00		
	Sum o	f # Acres			
Squash - all	0.006	0.325	0.078	0.409	
Acorn Squash		0.047		0.047	
Buttercup		0.037		0.037	
Butternut Squash	0.006	0.085		0.091	
Spaghetti Squash		0.029		0.029	
Summer Squash			0.011	0.011	
Winter Squash		0.127		0.127	
Zucchini Squash			0.067	0.067	
Per acre weighted average yield (pounds)					
Squash - all	33283	13636	23975	15896	
Acorn Squash		17552		17552	
Buttercup		9465		9465	
Butternut Squash	33283	20046		20945	
Spaghetti Squash		14566		14566	



Tim Landgraf and Jan Libbey of One Step at a Time Gardens.

	Zacen	mi squasii	
Table 22	Tomato		
Producer number	P9009	P9012	Total
Location	outdoor	outdoor	
Direct or Transplant	transplant	transplant	
Planting Date	5/18/13	6/14/13	
Mulch	plastic	straw	
Irrigation	yes	yes	
Harvest Date Range	7/29-10/7/13	8/6-10/19/13	
In-row Spacing (in)	30.00	24.00 - 28.00	
Between-row Spacing (in)	60.00	48.00	
	Sum of # Acres	s	
Tomatoes - all	0.016	0.036	0.052
Hybrid	0.016		0.016
none		0.030	0.030
Yellow		0.006	0.006
Per acre we	eighted average	yield (pounds)	
Tomatoes - all	68263	27825	40203
Hybrid	68263		68263
none		30330	30330
Yellow		15109	15109

Summer Squash

Winter Squash

Zucchini Squash



14566

23594

26272

8909

23594

Rick and Stacy Hartmann of Small Potatoes Farm.

PFI Cooperators' Program

8909

PFI's Cooperators' Program gives farmers practical answers to questions they have about on-farm challenges through research, record-keeping, and demonstration projects. The Cooperators' Program began in 1987 with farmers looking to save money through more judicious use of inputs.