

## Corn and Soybean Movement through North Dakota

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**C**orn and soybeans have been sweeping west and north throughout North Dakota for some time now. Due to increased choices of adapted varieties (increasing yield potential) and greatly increased prices, the march across the state has only increased its pace. Tables 1 and 2 provide a quick overview of the relative change in acreage from selected counties in North Dakota since 2010.

**Table 1. Corn acreage statistics from 2010-2012.**

County	2012 corn acres	Corn Acreage Increase		Growth Compared to Rich. Co. (2010-2012)	Percent of cropland used for corn (2012)
		2011-2012	2010-2012		
		%	%	X	%
Total (ND)	3,372,317	63.7	79.4	na	9.6
Foster	59,957	65.6	89.7	2.8	17.3
Eddy	30,755	140.3	210.7	6.7	9.8
Stutsman	198,036	73.7	93.6	3.0	18.7
Wells	95,741	105.5	144.2	4.6	14.5
Dickey	173,837	16.7	61.7	2.0	30.1
Ward	24,488	393.7	211.7	6.7	2.8
Cass	348,626	69.2	49.9	1.6	35.7
Grand Forks	125,784	61.7	40.4	1.3	17.9
Richland	297,080	13.8	31.5	na	38.2

\* All but one North Dakota county had >1000 grain corn acres in 2012 compared to 6 in 2010.

**Table 2. Soybean acreage statistics from 2010-2012.**

County	2012 soybean acres	Soybean Acreage Increase		Percent of cropland used for soybean (2012)
		2011-2012	2010-2012	
		%	%	%
Total (ND)	4,668,783	18.7	15.4	13.3
Foster	133,588	19.7	12.2	38.6
Eddy	67,373	13.9	25.9	21.4
Stutsman	406,657	16.0	5.5	38.3
Wells	193,928	17.2	22.5	29.4
Dickey	167,012	20.6	24.1	28.9
Ward	50,044	261.6	140.6	5.8
Cass	456,783	-7.5	-9.9	46.8
Grand Forks	157,902	-4.7	19.1	22.4
Richland	308,117	10.6	-3.9	39.6

All selected counties saw sizable increases in corn production between 2010 and 2012. The three counties in the Red River Valley had growth limited to 50 percent, which is still sizable considering they are all large counties. All other counties had growth in acreage greater than 50 percent with some much higher. As you compare the rate of growth across counties, it is clear that the further west and north you get, corn acres are expanding faster. This is to be expected

as corn and soybean accounted for 80 percent of farmed acres in Cass and Richland counties already in 2012. Other counties, like Dickey and Stutsman, are approaching that value as well (~60%).

Soybean acres have actually decreased in the Red River Valley counties at least once since 2010. In Stutsman and Foster counties already about 40 percent of the acres are soybeans. Although it should be noted that both counties saw marginal growth of 5.5 and 12.2 percent, compared to all other central counties reported. This may be indicating soybean acreage in east-central North Dakota may reach a natural plateau somewhere in the low or mid-40 percent range.