

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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POTATO STOCKS

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of April 1, 2008 totaled 75,000 cwt. This was 43 percent of the 2007 crop and compares with 87,000 cwt or 47 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2006 level for the April 1 stocks was 80,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for April 1 is 72,800 cwt.

Disappearance since March 1 was 10,000 cwt, compared with 12,000 cwt last year, and the five year average of 12,800 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes since October 1 totaled 101,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 99,000 cwt. The five year average disappearance is 97,400 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purpose and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2008, up 8 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above April 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points

from April 1, 2007. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.15 million cwt on April 1, 2008, down 18 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 270 million cwt, was 1 percent above April 1, 2007 and up 4 percent from 2006. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt, was down 3 percent from the same date in 2007 but up 7 percent from 2006. Processors in the 9 major States have used 144 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 1 percent from the same period last year but up 9 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 29.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same period in 2006.

CHANGES TO FARM REPORTER

Alaska Farm Reporter will be published every other month (even months) in the future. Our next Farm Reporter will be released the third week of June. All other releases will continue on their normal schedule.

Internet Access to Alaska reports: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ak>

Internet Access to all NASS Reports: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

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ALASKA FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS - 1998 - 2007

Year	Land in Farms (000 Acres)	Total All Farms 1/	Average Farm Size (Acres)	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
1998	910	580	1,569	120	50	40
1999	910	580	1,569	120	60	40
2000	910	580	1,569	130	50	30
2001	900	600	1,500	130	50	30
2002	900	610	1,475	120	50	40
2003	900	610	1,475	120	50	40
2004	900	620	1,452	120	50	40
2005	900	640	1,406	120	50	40
2006	900	640	1,406	120	50	40
2007	900	660	1,364	110	50	40

1/Includes farms and ranches with annual sales or potential sales of \$1,000 or more

U.S. PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

On the heels of last year's record-high **corn** production, U.S. farmers intend to plant 8 percent fewer corn acres in 2008, according to the *Prospective Plantings* report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Producers plan to plant 86 million acres of corn this year. While 7.6 million acres less than 2007, this would still be the second-largest area since 1949. The outlook for corn prices remains strong, thanks to increasing ethanol production and other factors. Still, favorable prices for other crops, along with crop rotation considerations and high corn input costs, are motivating some farmers to switch from corn.

Nationwide, **soybean** acreage is expected to jump 18 percent, to 74.8 million acres. This is an increase of 11.2 million acres from 2007 and is just 1 percent below 2006's record high. Acreage increases are expected in nearly every soybean state.

Wheat acreage is also expected to rise in 2008, up 6 percent to 63.8 million acres. Winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is up 4 percent from last year. Expected acreage of durum wheat is up 22 percent, to 2.63 million acres.

Growers intend to plant an estimated 3.42 million acres of **oats** in 2008, down 9 percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record. Most of the decrease in acreage of oats is expected to be in the Great Plains States. Acreage intentions declined in 15 of the 30 estimating States. The largest acreage decline is expected to occur in South Dakota, where growers intend to plant 200,000 acres this year, 130,000 fewer than were planted in 2007. Prospective oat acreage in North Dakota declined 110,000 acres. The largest expected increase in acreage from last year is in California, where an additional 50,000 acres of oats are expected to be sown.

Growers intend to plant 4.15 million acres of **barley** for 2008, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest barley planted acreage on record. In North Dakota, the largest barley-producing State, expected planted area is 1.55 million acres, up 5 percent from 2007. Growers in California, Wyoming, and Virginia intend to increase their acreage by 35 percent or more. In Michigan, New York, and Utah, acreage is expected to decline to record low levels and Nevada producers intend to match their lowest acreage on record established last year.

Producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of **all hay** in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the Great Plains, Southeast, and Southwest. The State with the largest expected decrease is Texas, down 390,000 acres from 2007. South Dakota and Nebraska are expected to be down 300,000 acres and 150,000 acres, respectively. However, area for harvest in most States in the northern Great Plains, Western Mountain regions, and Northeast is expected to increase from 2007. The States with the largest expected increases from the previous year are North Dakota, up 120,000 acres, and Montana, Wyoming, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, each up 50,000 acres. In the West, minor increases are expected in Oregon, Nevada, and California.

The *Prospective Plantings* report provides the first official estimate of U.S. farmers' planting intentions for 2008. NASS's acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March from a sample of approximately 86,000 farm operators across the United States. *Prospective Plantings* and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.