

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

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Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



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ALASKA JUNE ACREAGE SURVEY

BARLEY planted for all purposes is estimated at 3,800 acres, and compares with the 4,100 acres planted in 2007. **Tanana Valley** growers seeded nearly 3,700 acres, down 200 acres from 2007. The majority of this acreage is in the Delta Junction area. Barley seeded in the **Matanuska Valley** and elsewhere in the State totaled 100 acres, down from 200 acres in 2007.

Alaska farmers seeded 1,800 acres of **OATS** for all purposes in 2008, down 100 acres from last year. Farmer intentions in early June were to harvest 60 percent of the 2008 planted acres for grain, up from approximately 55 percent in 2007.

POTATO growers planted an estimated 870 acres in 2008, compared with 890 acres last year and 860 acres in 2006.

ALL HAY is intended to be harvested from 23,000 acres in 2008. This is the same number of acres as actually harvested in 2007. **Tanana Valley** growers intend to harvest 11,000 acres of all hay/silage, up from 10,700 acres in 2007. **Matanuska Valley** growers plan to harvest 9,500 acres of all hay/silage, down from 10,100 acres in 2007. **Kenai** and the rest of the State plan to harvest 2,500 acres of all hay/silage in 2008, up from 2,200 last year.

occurred in both North Dakota and South Dakota, where growers showed a reduction of 100,000 and 110,000 acres, respectively. Other States showing significant decreases in acreage included Kansas, Minnesota and Colorado. The largest increase in acreage occurred in California, where an additional 90,000 acres of oats were sown. Growers expect to harvest 1.44 million acres, compared with 1.51 million in 2007. This 4 percent decrease is largely attributed to North Dakota, where area for harvest is estimated at 150,000 acres, a decrease of 110,000 acres from the previous year.

Barley: Growers seeded 4.13 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from the 4.02 million acres seeded last year. Acres for harvest, at 3.64 million, are up 4 percent from 2007. Planted acres increased from the previous year in the top two producing States. North Dakota growers increased planted acres 2 percent, from 1.47 million acres in 2007 to 1.50 million acres this year, and expect to harvest 1.40 million acres. Montana planted acreage is up 1 percent from 2007. In Idaho and Washington, planted acreage decreased by 5 and 13 percent, respectively, while in Minnesota, planted acreage is unchanged from 2007.

Hay: Producers expect to harvest 60.4 million acres of all hay in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout the Great Plains and the West. Increased acres are expected to be harvested along the East Coast. Expected harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 20.8 million acres, is down 4 percent from 2007. Acreage decreased in the Corn Belt, the Southeast, and most of the western United States, while acreage increases are expected in the Rocky Mountain States and portions of the Northeast. Expected area for harvest of all other types of hay totals 39.7 million acres, down 1 percent from the 40.0 million acres harvested in 2007.

JUNE ACREAGE PLANTED - ALASKA			
	2008	2007	2006
Barley	3,800	4,100	4,500
Oats	1,800	1,900	2,000
Potatoes	870	890	860
All Hay*	23,000	23,000	20,000

*area for harvest for hay or silage.

U.S. JUNE ACREAGE SURVEY

Oats: Area planted is estimated at 3.47 million acres, showing a continued decline from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007. This 8 percent decrease from the previous year will bring the oat crop to another record low level. Oat acres planted declined or remained unchanged in 23 States and increased in 7 States. Considerable decreases in acreage

Summer Potatoes: Growers in the summer producing states planted an estimated 48,000 acres of potatoes this year, down 11 percent from last year and 17 percent below 2006. Harvested area is forecast at 45,500 acres, 11 percent lower than 2007 and down 16 percent from 2006. Planted acreage in 7 of the 11 estimating States decreased from 2007. The reduction in acres is due in part to unfavorable planting conditions and uncertain water supplies.

POTATO STOCKS

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of June 1, 2008 totaled 38,000 cwt. This was 22 percent of the 2007 crop and compares with 45,000 cwt or 24 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2006 level for the June 1 stocks was 32,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for June 1 is 28,800 cwt.

Disappearance since May 1 was 22,000 cwt, compared with 28,000 cwt last year, and the five year average of 26,000 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes since October 1 totaled 138,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 141,000 cwt. The five year average disappearance is 141,400 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 58.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2008, up 31 percent from a year ago and 40 percent above June 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 15 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from last year. Disappearance from the start of harvest to June 1 was at 342 million cwt, 1 percent below last year but up 3 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 24.6 million cwt, was down 4 percent from the same period in 2007 but up 4 percent from 2006. Processors have used 176 million cwt of the 2007 potato crop so far this season, down 3 percent from last year's season-to-date usage but up 5 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 37.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same period in 2006.

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The next issue of the Alaska Farm Reporter will be published the third week of August.