



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
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September 12, 2008

CROP PRODUCTION - September 2008

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

The **corn** yield forecast is now estimated at 145.0 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels above last year's final yield, but 5 bushels below the August 1 forecast. The forecast for harvested acres was unchanged at 1,170,000 acres, up 110,000 acres from the area harvested for grain in 2007. Corn production is forecast at 169.65 million bushels, 13 percent more than last year's production. The **sorghum** yield is forecast at 27.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above the August 1 forecast, but 10.0 bushels below last year's crop. Growers are expected to harvest 180,000 acres, placing production at 4.9 million bushels, compared with 5.6 million bushels last year. The **summer potato** yield forecast was unchanged from July 1 at 360 cwt per acre, up 10 cwt from last year's average yield. Growers are expected to harvest 4,000 acres, up 1,300 acres from last year's harvested area. Production is forecast at 1.4 million cwt., 495,000 cwt above last year's production. The **sugarbeet** yield is forecast at 27.0 tons per acre, up 3.0 tons from the August 1 forecast and 0.8 tons above last year's yield. Production is now forecast at 772,000 tons from 28,600 harvested acres, down from last year's 765,000 tons from 29,200 acres.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 12.1 billion bushels, down 2 percent from last month and 8 percent below 2007. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 152.3 bushels per acre, down 2.7 bushels from August but 1.2 bushels above last year. If realized, yield will be the second highest on record, behind 2004, while production will be the second largest, behind last year. Yield forecasts are lower than last month across the northern and eastern Corn Belt and the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys where the lack of rainfall during August reduced soil moisture supplies and stressed the crop. Yield prospects also decreased across much of the middle Mississippi Valley and adjacent areas of the Great Plains as dry weather during August eliminated soil moisture surpluses.

Sorghum production is forecast at 426 million bushels, up 4 percent from last month but down 16 percent from last year. Expected area for harvest as grain is forecast at 6.44 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 5 percent from 2007. Based on September 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 66.1 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from last month but down 8.1 bushels from last year. In Kansas, the top producing State, yield is expected to average 76 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month but down 4 bushels from last year. In Texas, the second leading State, yields are expected to average 52 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month but 14 bushels below last year.

Summer Potatoes production is forecast at 14.9 million cwt, up 2 percent from the July 1 forecast but down 12 percent from 2007. Harvested acres are estimated at 46,200 acres, 2 percent above the July forecast but 10 percent below last year. If realized, this will be the lowest harvested acreage on record. Average yield is forecast at 324 cwt per acre, up 3 cwt from July but down 8 cwt from 2007. Colorado's growing conditions were reported as good with harvest starting later than normal due to delayed planting and early hail damage.

Sugarbeets production in 2008 is forecast at 26.1 million tons, down 3 percent from the August forecast and down 18 percent from last year. Production forecasts are down from last year in all estimating States except Colorado. Growers expect to harvest 1.06 million acres in 2008, up 1 percent from the August forecast but down 15 percent from last year. The yield forecast, at 24.7 tons per acre, is up 0.6 ton from August but down 0.9 ton from 2007. Yield expectations are higher than last month in all States except North Dakota and Washington.