



News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
645 Parfet St., Suite W-201 · Lakewood, CO 80215

January 11, 2008

ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY - 2007 CROPS

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado experienced an unusual 2006-2007 winter with three major blizzards bringing much needed moisture to the crop growing areas of the State. Spring moisture was also abundant setting the stage for an excellent growing season for both spring and summer crops. A dry fall added good harvest conditions for summer crops. The 2007 corn for grain crop was estimated at 150.52 million bushels, 12 percent above last year's output. The average yield of 142.0 bushels per acre was 14.0 bushels per acre below the yield achieved last year as a higher proportion of dryland acres was harvested. Area harvested for grain in 2007, at 1.06 million acres, was 200,000 acres greater than last year. Acreage cut for corn silage was set at 110,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from last year. Sorghum for grain production was estimated at 5.55 million bushels, up 64 percent from the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 37.0 bushels per acre, up 11.0 bushels per acre from last year. Producers harvested 150,000 acres for grain, 20,000 acres more than last year's area. Proso millet production in the state was estimated at 8.58 million bushels, up from 5.36 million bushels produced last year. Farmers harvested 260,000 acres of proso, up 5,000 from the previous year. Yields were also up 12.0 bushels averaging 33.0 bushels per acre. Dry edible bean production was set at 736,000 cwt, 35 percent below the 2006 crop of 1.14 million cwt. Average yield was estimated at 1,600 pounds per acre, 300 pounds below last year as a greater proportion of the crop was non-irrigated. Harvested area, at 46,000 acres, was 14,000 less than last year due to reduced plantings.

The final 2007 all wheat production for Colorado, at 95.5 million bushels, was 2.3 times the production attained the previous year. Winter wheat production was estimated at 94.0 million bushels, 236 percent of last year's drought stressed crop and the largest crop since 1999. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 2.35 million acres, up from 1.9 million acres harvested last year. Good fall seeding conditions combined with a moist spring increased average yield per acre to 40.0 bushels, 19.0 bushels above last year and the second highest yield on record. The area seeded last fall for this year's crop was estimated at 2.5 million acres. This year's spring wheat crop was estimated at 1,520,000 bushels, down 6 percent from last year's crop. The average yield of 80.0 bushels per acre was 5 bushels below last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 19,000 acres from 20,000 seeded. Colorado's barley production in 2007 was estimated at 7.25 million bushels, up 50 percent from a year ago. The average yield per acre, at 125.0 bushels, was 10 bushels above last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 58,000 acres, up from 42,000 acres in 2006. Production of oats in 2007 totaled 800,000 bushels, 14 percent above last year. Average yield was placed at 80.0 bushels per acre, 10 bushels above last year's crop. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 10,000 acres, equal to the area harvested last year. Acres seeded to oats totaled 75,000 in 2007 down 10,000 acres from last year.

Colorado's 2007 alfalfa hay production was placed at 2.96 million tons from 800,000 acres harvested. The average yield for the 2007 crop was 3.7 tons per acre, one-tenth of a ton below last year. All other hay production totaled 1.43 million tons from 750,000 acres harvested. The average yield of 1.9 tons per acre was equal to the yield attained last year. Hay stocks on farms and ranches in Colorado totaled 2.4 million tons on December 1, 2007, up 13 percent from 2.13 million tons on hand the previous year.

Fall potato growers in the San Luis Valley produced 20.98 million cwt of potatoes this year, down 8 percent from last year's crop. Average yield was 355 cwt per acre, down 25 cwt per acre from last year's yield. The harvested area of 59,100 acres this year was 600 acres less than in 2006. The summer potato yield, at 360 cwt per acre, equaled last year's average yield. Growers harvested 2,800 acres, down 800 acres from last year's harvested area. Production is set at 1.0 million cwt., down from last year's production of 1.3 million cwt. The state's sugarbeet crop of 765,000 tons for 2007 was down 14 percent from the 889,000 tons produced in 2006. Producers harvested 29,200 acres in 2007. Average yield was estimated at 26.2 tons per acre. Sunflower production was set at 135.80 million pounds from 113,000 acres harvested. Average yield was 1,202 pounds per acre, up from 1,168 pounds last year. Production of oil varieties increased 39 percent from the previous year to 115.0 million pounds and production of non-oil varieties decreased 20 percent to 20.8 million pounds.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in 2007 is estimated at 13.1 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November forecast but 24 percent above 2006. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 151.1 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels from the November forecast but 2.0 bushels above 2006. The 2007 yield estimate is the second highest on record, behind 2004, while production is the largest on record as producers harvested the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Sorghum grain production in 2007 is estimated at 505 million bushels, down 2 percent from the November forecast but 82 percent above 2006. Planted area is estimated at 7.72 million acres, up 18 percent from last year, and area harvested for grain, at 6.81 million acres, is up 38 percent from 2006. Average grain yield, at 74.2 bushels per acre, is down 2.6 bushels from the previous forecast but up 18 bushels from last year.

All wheat production totals 2.07 billion bushels in 2007, unchanged from the Small Grains 2007 Summary but up 14 percent from 2006. Grain area is 51.0 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 40.5 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from last year. The level of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.52 billion bushels, up 17 percent; other spring wheat, 479 million bushels, up 4 percent; Durum wheat, 71.7 million bushels, up 34 percent. The 2007 winter wheat production is estimated at 1.52 billion bushels, unchanged from the Small Grains 2007 Summary but up 17 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 42.2 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from last year's final yield. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 36.0 million acres, up 16 percent from the previous year. Hard Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 21 percent from the previous year while Soft Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 15 percent. Other spring wheat production for 2007 is estimated at 479 million bushels, unchanged from the Small Grains 2007 Summary but up 4 percent from last year. Harvested area is 12.9 million acres, down 7 percent from 2006. The U.S. yield is 37.0 bushels per acre, up 3.8 bushels from last year.

Barley production is estimated at 212 million bushels, unchanged from the Small Grains 2007 Summary but up 18 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 60.4 bushels, is 0.7 bushel below 2006. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.51 million acres, 19 percent above a year ago. Harvested acreage is up in the top four barley-producing States from the previous season. Acreage harvested is up 40,000 in Idaho, 100,000 in Montana, 395,000 in North Dakota, and 35,000 in Washington resulting in higher production than last year. The 2007 oat production is estimated at a record low 91.6 million bushels, unchanged from the Small Grain 2007 Summary but down 2 percent from last year. The estimated yield is 60.9 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from the previous year. Area planted to oats is estimated at a record low 3.76 million acres, down 10 percent from 2006. Harvested area, at 1.51 million acres, is 4 percent below last year. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend. The largest decline occurred in Wisconsin, where area harvested for grain decreased 70,000 acres from last year.

All hay production of dry hay for 2007 is estimated at 150 million tons, up 2 percent from the October 1 forecast and up 6 percent from the 2006 total. Area harvested, at 61.6 million acres, is down slightly from the October forecast but up 1 percent from 2006. The average yield, at 2.44 tons per acre, is up 0.05 ton from October and up 0.10 ton from the previous year. Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures hay production in 2007 is estimated at 72.6 million tons, up slightly from the October 1 forecast and less than 1 percent above 2006. Harvested area, at 21.7 million acres, is 1 percent above the October forecast and the previous year. The average yield is 3.35 tons per acre, 0.02 ton below the previous forecast and 0.01 ton below 2006. All other hay production in 2007 totaled 77.7 million tons, up 3 percent from the October 1 forecast and up 11 percent from 2006. Area for harvest, at 40.0 million acres, is down 1 percent from October but 1 percent above last year. The average yield is estimated at 1.95 tons per acre, up 0.08 ton from October and up 0.17 ton from last year.

Sugarbeets production for 2007 is estimated 31.9 million tons, 6 percent below the 2006 estimate but 1 percent above the November forecast. Estimated yield, at 25.6 tons per acre, is 0.5 ton lower than last year's record high yield and 0.2 ton below November. Growers harvested 1.25 million acres, 4 percent below last year. Area planted, at 1.27 million acres, is 7 percent below the 2006 estimate. The 2007 sunflower production totals 2.89 billion pounds, up 35 percent from 2006 but down 28 percent from 2005. The U.S. average yield per acre increased 226 pounds from last year to 1,437 pounds. Planted area, at 2.07 million acres, is 6 percent above last year but 24 percent below 2005. Area harvested increased 14 percent from last year to 2.01 million acres. Production of proso millet for 2007 is estimated at 16.6 million bushels, up 63 percent from 2006 and 22 percent higher than 2005. Planted area, at 570,000 acres, is down 2 percent from 2006 while harvested area, at 515,000 acres, is up 8 percent. Harvested area and yield increased from last year in all three States in the estimating program (Colorado, Nebraska, and South Dakota). The average yield is estimated at 32.3 bushels per acre, up 10.8 bushels from last year. This is the highest proso millet yield since the 33.2 bushel yield in 2001.