



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

News Release



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

Released: September 30, 2008

www.nass.usda.gov

SMALL GRAIN - SEPTEMBER 2008 COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

The final 2008 **all wheat** production for Colorado, at 59.7 million bushels, was 37.5 percent lower than the production attained the previous year. **Winter wheat** production was estimated at 57 million bushels, 39.4 percent lower than last year's bumper crop. The area seeded last fall for this year's crop was estimated at 2.15 million acres. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 1.90 million acres, down from 2.35 million acres harvested last year. The average yield per acre for this year's crop was 30 bushels, 10 bushels below last year. This year's **spring wheat** crop was estimated at 2.7 million bushels, up almost 78 percent from last year's crop. The average yield of 75 bushels per acre was 5 bushels below last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 36,000 acres from 40,000 seeded. Colorado's **barley** production in 2008 was estimated at 8.64 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. The average yield per acre, at 120 bushels, was down 5 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 72,000 acres, up from 58,000 acres in 2007. Production of **oats** in 2008 totaled 490,000 bushels, 39 percent below last year. Average yield was placed at 70 bushels per acre, 10 bushels below last year and comparable to the 2006 crop. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 7,000 acres, down 3,000 from the acres harvested last year. Acres seeded to oats totaled 45,000 in 2008 down 30,000 acres from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All wheat production totals 2.50 billion bushels in 2008, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 21 percent from 2007. Grain area is 55.7 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.9 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from the last forecast and up 4.4 bushels from last year. The levels of production and changes from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.87 billion bushels, up 23 percent; other spring wheat, 547 million bushels, up 14 percent; Durum wheat, 84.9 million bushels, up 18 percent.

Oat production is estimated at a record low 88.6 million bushels, 1 percent below the August 1 forecast and down 3 percent from last year. The estimated yield is 63.5 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from the last forecast and up 2.6 bushels from the previous year. Compared with last year, yields increased in the central and southern Great Plains, Pacific Northwest, and most States in the eastern half of the country. Harvested area, at 1.40 million acres, is 3 percent and 7 percent below August and last year, respectively. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

Barley production is estimated at 239 million bushels, 10 percent above the August forecast and 13 percent above 2007. Average yield per acre, at 63.6 bushels, is up 3.7 bushels from August and 3.2 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.77 million acres, up 7 percent from a year ago.