



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE
50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY SUITE 202
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 09, 2008

Contact: Barbara Rater
(410) 841-5740

The 2008 Wheat Crop Production Increases Significantly

Wheat production in Delaware and Maryland is expected to increase this year. According to the April 27, 2008, crop progress report, wheat was rated in mostly good to excellent condition.

Maryland: Wheat production is expected to total 13,760,000 bushels, due to the increase in acres harvested. Producers expect to harvest 215,000 acres of wheat from the 255,000 acres planted, with an expected yield of 64 bushels per acre. Yield for wheat is expected to be down from last year's yield of 68 bushels per acre, although still above the five-year average of 60 bushels per acre. Harvested acres have increased from last year as more farmers are enrolling in the Maryland Cover Crop program for small grains.

Delaware: Wheat production is expected to total 5,148,000 bushels this year. This is a result of increase wheat acreage planted. Yield for wheat is expected to be 66 bushels per acre this year, compared to 68 bushels per acre in 2007, and above the five-year average of 61 bushels per acre. Of the 80,000 acres planted, farmers expect to harvest 78,000 acres, as compared with 55,000 acres harvested in 2007.

United States: Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.78 billion bushels, up 17 percent from 2007. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 40.2 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.3 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2007 AND 2008

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Planted</i>		<i>Harvested</i>		<i>Average Yield</i>		<i>Production</i>	
		<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>Maryland</i>		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	540	490	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	455	----	103	----	46,865	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	75	----	12	----	900	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	400	450	380	----	27	----	10,260	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	220	255	170	215	68	64	11,560	13,760
Barley ¹	BU	45	48	34	----	84	----	2,856	----
Hay, All	TON	----	----	215	205	2.15	----	462	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	40	----	2.80	----	112	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	175	----	2.00	----	350	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	33,000	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.3	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	----	3.0	----	320	----	960	----
<i>Delaware</i>									
Corn ¹	ACR	195	145	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	185	----	97	----	17,945	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	7	----	10	----	70	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	150	200	145	----	24	----	3,480	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	57	80	55	78	68	66	3,740	5,148
Barley ¹	BU	21	27	19	----	78	----	1,482	----
Hay, All	TON	----	----	15	15	1.93	----	29	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	5	----	2.20	----	11	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	10	----	1.8	----	18	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	2.0	----	2.0	----	260	----	520	----
<i>United States</i>								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	93,600	86,014	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	86,542	----	151	----	13,074	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,071	----	18	----	106	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	63,631	74,793	62,820	----	41	----	2,585	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,987	46,840	35,952	40,162	42	44	1,516	1,778
Barley ¹	BU	4,020	4,147	3,508	----	60	----	212	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,625	60,583	2.44	----	150	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,670	----	3.35	----	73	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,955	----	1.95	----	78	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,343	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.11	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.7	----	51.3	----	332	----	17.0	----

¹ Intended plantings in 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.