



Crop News Release

In Cooperation with the Georgia Department of Agriculture

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GEORGIA SMALL GRAINS ANNUAL SUMMARY 2008

Small grain plantings for 2008 progressed at a normal pace in the fall of 2007, according to the USDA, NASS, Georgia Field Office. Rainfall during the winter months were near normal, while slightly above normal in the southern part of the State. Winter temperatures were generally near normal. Crop conditions during the winter months were mostly good. Weather conditions for harvesting were good and harvesting progress was near normal.

All **wheat** planted in Georgia for the 2008 crop was 480,000 acres, 120,000 acres more than in 2007. Wheat harvested for grain was 400,000 acres, 170,000 acres more than last year. Wheat yields were set at 56 bushels per acre, which is 16 bushels per acre more than a year ago and this yield set a new State record. The previous record was 54 bushels per acre set in 2000. Production totaled 22.4 million bushels, more than double the production in 2007.

Oats planted for the 2008 crop was 65,000 acres, with the area harvested for grain at 25,000. Both acreages were 5,000 acres less than in 2007. The yield for oats averaged 69 bushels per acre, 13 bushels per acre more than last year. This yield is the second highest on record, bested by the 2000 record yield of 72 bushels per acre. Production totaled 1.73 million bushels, up 3 percent from last year's 1.68 million bushels.

Georgia's acreage planted to **rye**, at 200,000 acres was 13 percent less than was planted in 2007. Most of the rye in Georgia is used for winter grazing and as a winter cover crop; however, 40,000 acres were kept to maturity and harvested for grain and seed. This acreage is the same as in 2007. Yield averaged 30 bushels per acre, 9 bushels more than in 2007, setting a new State record. The former record was 27 bushels per acre set in 1991, 1994, and 2005. Production was up 43 percent from a year ago at 1,200,000 bushels.

U.S. SMALL GRAINS 2008

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.

Oats 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.

Rye production for 2008 is estimated at 7.98 million bushels, up 1 percent from last year. Harvested area totals 269,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2007. The U.S. yield, at 29.7 bushels per acre, is up 2.3 bushels from last year. Georgia leads the Nation in production with 1.20 million bushels produced in 2008. Good moisture conditions in the State contributed to higher yields and production compared with the 2007 crop.