



Press Release

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Idaho Sugarbeet Acreage Lowest Since 1977

Planted acreage of sugarbeets is estimated at 131,000 acres, down 22 percent from the 169,000 acres planted in 2007, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Acres of sugarbeets for harvest are expected to total 117,000, a decrease of 30 percent from last year's 167,000 acres harvested. This is the lowest planted and harvested acreage for sugarbeets in Idaho since 1977. Idaho's spring wheat seedings, at 540,000 acres, are up 15 percent from the 470,000 acres planted in 2007. Harvested acreage is set at 520,000 acres, an increase of 70,000 acres from last year. Winter wheat seedings of 870,000 acres increased 16 percent from the previous year. Harvested acres are expected to total 810,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from the June 1 forecast, but up 100,000 acres from 2007. Area planted to durum wheat is unchanged from last year at 15,000 acres, with 15,000 acres also expected to be harvested for grain. Barley acreage planted is estimated at 540,000 acres, 5 percent less than last year's 570,000 acres. Harvested acreage is expected to total 520,000, down from 550,000 acres harvested in 2007. Acres seeded to oats totaled 70,000, unchanged from last year. Acres harvested for grain are estimated at 20,000, also unchanged from last year. The area planted to corn, at 330,000 acres, is up 20,000 acres from last year's record high. Corn to be harvested for grain is forecast at 105,000 acres, equal to last year's record high. Dry bean planted acreage is down 17 percent to 75,000 acres planted with 73,000 acres expected to be harvested. Estimates for dry bean acreage include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. Idaho farmers and ranchers are expected to harvest 1.46 million acres of all hay, down 3 percent from last year. Alfalfa hay harvested is at 1.13 million acres, down 6 percent from last year while other hay is estimated at 330,000 harvested acres, up 10 percent from 2007.

For the U.S., corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Despite the decrease, corn planted acreage is the second highest since 1946, behind last year's total of 93.6 million acres. Growers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres for grain, down 9 percent from 2007. Winter wheat planted area, at 46.6 million acres, is 4 percent above last year. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 40.3 million acres, up slightly from the June 1 forecast and up 12 percent from last year. Area planted to other spring wheat is estimated at 14.2 million acres, up 7 percent from 2007. Grain area is expected to total 13.8 million acres, up 6 percent from last year. Durum planted area for 2008 is estimated at 2.66 million acres, up 24 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 2.58 million acres, 22 percent above 2007. Barley growers seeded 4.13 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from the 4.02 million acres seeded a year ago. Acres for harvest, at 3.64 million, are up 4 percent from the 2007 level. Oats planted totaled 3.47 million acres. This 8 percent decrease from the previous year will bring the oat crop to another record low level. Growers expect to harvest 1.44 million acres compared with 1.51 million in 2007. Area planted to sugarbeets totals 1.08 million acres, down 15 percent from 2007. Harvested area is forecast at 1.03 million acres, down 18 percent from 2007. Dry bean planted acreage, at 1.40 million acres, is down 8 percent from last year. Acres to be harvested are forecast at 1.34 million, down 9 percent from 2007. Producers expect to harvest 60.4 million acres of all hay in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage is estimated at 20.8 million acres, down 4 percent from last year.

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