



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Press Release

The Illinois Field Office

Cooperating with The Illinois Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 19283 · Springfield, Illinois 62794-9283, 1-800-622-9865  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

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800/622-9865

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Brad Schwab or Mark Schleusener-

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- The Illinois Field Office of NASS today released the USDA's **Prospective Plantings Report**. Highlights of the report include:

## ILLINOIS

Farmers intend to plant 12.6 million acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2008, 5 percent less than in 2007. Acreage planted to corn over the last 10 years has ranged from a low of 10.6 million in 1998 to a record high of 13.2 million for 2007. Fieldwork remains at a virtual stand still as fields are wet and cool temperatures continue with little sunshine.

This crop year begins with **soybean** producers intending to plant 8.8 million acres, up 7 percent from last year. Acreage planted to soybeans over the last ten years has ranged from a low of 8.2 million last year to a high of 10.7 million in 2001.

Farmers seeded an estimated 1.20 million acres to **winter wheat** last fall, up 20 percent from the 1.00 million acres seeded in 2007 and unchanged from the first estimate in December.

## UNITED STATES

Corn growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

(More)

Soybean producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Acreage increases are expected in all States, except in West Virginia, which is unchanged from last year. The largest increases are expected in Iowa and Nebraska, up 1.25 million acres and 1.20 million acres from 2007, respectively. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Minnesota, and South Dakota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.63 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2008 is expected to total 14.3 million acres, up 8 percent from 2007. Of this total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2008 is 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from the previous year.

ACREAGE BY DISTRICTS - ILLINOIS 2007 PLANTED AND 2008 INTENTIONS

District and State	Corn		Soybeans		Wheat	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
<u>Thousand acres</u>						
Northwest	2,163	1,972	769	951	42	58
Northeast	1,242	1,169	619	707	47	66
West	1,236	1,211	760	801	65	75
Central	1,883	1,785	976	1,095	42	45
East	1,844	1,826	1,153	1,161	73	79
W.Southwest	1,851	1,781	1,035	1,126	146	157
E.Southeast	1,729	1,677	1,424	1,449	178	231
Southwest	590	588	794	787	275	304
Southeast	662	591	670	723	132	185
ILLINOIS	13,200	12,600	8,200	8,800	1,000	1,200

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