

United States Department of Agriculture



National Agricultural
Statistics Service



Illinois Department
of Agriculture

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

ILLINOIS

The Illinois **wheat** crop is expected to yield 63 bushels per acre based on conditions as of May 1, six bushels above last year's yield which was reduced by the April 2007 freeze. If this yield is realized, total production would be 73.1 million bushels, 44 percent more than a year ago. Farmers seeded 1.2 million acres to wheat last fall, and expect to harvest 1.16 million acres for grain. This compares to 1.0 million acres seeded and 890 thousand acres harvested in 2007. Crop development is considerably behind last year and the five-year average. This spring, Illinois has experienced below normal temperatures with surplus precipitation. Southern Illinois has experienced larger rainfalls this spring causing streams and rivers to overflow their banks and flood low-lying farmland. In March, many areas in the southern part of the state received precipitation totals that were two to three times normal for the month. Temperatures averaged 2.9 degrees below normal.

As of May 4, 5 percent of the crop was headed, compared to 33 percent last year and the five-year average of 30 percent. The condition of the wheat crop was rated 71 percent good to excellent.

Hay stocks, as of May 1, 2008, were at a record low 210,000 tons, down 35 percent from a year ago. The main reason for the lower stocks is that hay production was a record low last year, due to the decreasing acreage of hay. Also, below normal temperatures for much of the spring have held pastures back in growth, causing hay to be fed longer this spring.

M O R E

UNITED STATES

U.S. **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. Hard Red Winter (HRW) harvested acreage is up about 6 percent from the previous year. Soft Red Winter (SRW) harvested acreage is estimated to be up 35 percent from last year. The portion of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on April 27, at 46 percent, was 10 percentage points below a year ago.

HRW harvested acreage expectations in the central and southern Great Plains are above last year's freeze and flood reduced levels, mainly due to Kansas and Oklahoma acreage which is expected to be up 9 percent and 29 percent, respectively. Texas and Colorado harvested acreage is expected to be down 11 percent, due to lower planted acreage and dry conditions. As of April 27, heading was behind normal in Texas and Oklahoma, and significantly behind in Kansas. The Nebraska wheat crop has come through the winter with minimal acreage loss with the crop condition rated above last year. As of April 27, Nebraska crop development was about 11 days behind last year and normal due to the unseasonably cool weather. Crop development in Montana is slightly behind last year with conditions rated mostly fair to good. After a relatively dry winter, the Colorado crop has retained most of its potential. Moisture received during the growing season will determine yield prospects because soil moisture supplies are currently limited in most growing areas. Growers in many States in the SRW area expect yields to be above last year, especially in the Southeast due mostly to improved moisture conditions. Harvested acreage across the SRW area is up from last year due to an increase in planted acres, and fewer acres being abandoned and cut for forage compared with last year when drought conditions and an April freeze reduced harvested area. In the Pacific Northwest, wheat condition is rated mostly fair to good with soil moisture in mostly adequate supply. A cold spring has significantly delayed crop development.

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