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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

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Brad Schwab or Mark Schleusener- 800/622-9865

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- The Illinois Field Office today released the USDA's **Annual Fall Crop Summary, Winter Wheat Seedings, and Grain Stocks Report**. State and national highlights of the report include:

ILLINOIS

Production of **corn** for grain totaled 2.284 billion bushels in 2007, 26 percent more than last year and the largest production on record for Illinois. The final yield was 175 bushels per acre, the second highest yield on record behind 180 in 2004. There were 13.2 million acres planted to corn in Illinois in 2007. After getting off to a slow start due to cold weather, most of the state's corn crop was planted during the last two weeks of April. Excellent growing conditions during June and early July had the corn crop advancing in maturity at a rapid pace. However, dry weather in the southern half of the state reduced yields. Harvest got off to a good start in early September and progressed at a record pace.

The final yield for the 2007 **soybean** crop was 43.0 bushels per acre, 5 bushels below the 2006 yield. Production in 2007 reached 350.45 million bushels, 27 percent below 2006. Acres planted in 2007 were down 1.9 million from 2006 to 8.2 million. The growing season started off dry, with high temperatures throughout the season. As harvest began, temperatures were above average across the state, as was precipitation. Harvest activities were slightly delayed due to weather conditions.

The final 2007 yield for **sorghum** for grain was 81 bushels per acre, 8 bushels below the yield in 2006. Production, at 6.237 million bushels, was down 3 percent from the previous year. Dry conditions in southern Illinois played a large part in the decrease in yield. The total planted acres of sorghum were 80,000, with 77,000 acres harvested for grain.

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Production of **all hay** in 2007 was 1.92 million tons, 24 percent less than in 2006. Alfalfa hay production was down 22 percent to 1.41 million tons while all other hay production decreased 28 percent to 510 thousand tons. Yields averaged 3.7 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.7 tons per acre for all other hay. Alfalfa acreage cut for hay was 380 thousand in 2007, down 14 percent from 2006. Acreage of all other hay cut was 300 thousand, down 20 thousand from 2006.

An estimated 1.2 million acres of **winter wheat** were seeded in the fall of 2007, 20 percent more than in 2006. October weather conditions were favorable for seeding with unseasonable temperatures averaging 7 degrees above normal.

UNITED STATES

Corn for grain production in 2007 is estimated at 13.1 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November forecast but 24 percent above 2006. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 151.1 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels from the November forecast but 2.0 bushels above 2006. The 2007 yield estimate is the second highest on record, behind 2004, while production is the largest on record as producers harvested the most corn acres for grain since 1933.

Soybean production in 2007 totals 2.59 billion bushels, down slightly from the November forecast and 19 percent below the record high production of 2006. The average yield per acre is estimated at 41.2 bushels, 0.1 bushel below the November forecast and 1.5 bushels below last year's yield. Harvested area is down 16 percent from 2006, to 62.8 million acres.

Sorghum grain production in 2007 is estimated at 505 million bushels, down 2 percent from the November forecast but 82 percent above 2006. Planted area is estimated at 7.72 million acres, up 18 percent from last year, and area harvested for grain, at 6.81 million acres, is up 38 percent from 2006. Average grain yield, at 74.2 bushels per acre, is down 2.6 bushels from the previous forecast but up 18 bushels from last year.

All Hay production of dry hay for 2007 is estimated at 150 million tons, up 2 percent from the October 1 forecast and up 6 percent from the 2006 total. Area harvested, at 61.6 million acres, is down slightly from the October forecast but up 1 percent from 2006. The average yield, at 2.44 tons per acre, is up 0.05 ton from October and up 0.10 ton from the previous year.

Winter wheat seeded area for 2008 is expected to total 46.6 million acres, up 4 percent from 2007. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 32.5 million; Soft Red Winter, 10.5 million; and White Winter, 3.65 million.

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GRAIN STOCKS

Corn stocks in Illinois on December 1, 2007 totaled 1.99 billion bushels, up 21 percent from a year earlier. On-farm stocks, at 1.15 billion bushels, accounted for 58 percent of the total stocks. Off-farm stocks, at 840.1 million bushels, were up 13 percent from 2006.

Soybean stocks totaled 373.8 million bushels stored in all positions on December 1, 2007, down 18 percent from the previous year's total. On farm stocks totaled 165 million bushels, 31 percent below December 1, 2006. Off-farm stocks, at 208.8 million bushels, were down four percent from a year earlier.

Wheat stocks in all positions totaled 23.1 million bushels on December 1, 2007. Off-farm stocks, at 21.3 million bushels accounted for 92 percent of the state total. On-farm stocks totaled 1.8 million bushels, down 44 percent from a year earlier.

UNITED STATES

Corn stored in all positions on December 1, 2007 totaled 10.3 billion bushels, up 15 percent from December 1, 2006. Of the total stocks, 6.53 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.74 billion bushels, are up 13 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2007 indicated disappearance is 4.11 billion bushels, compared with 3.57 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on December 1, 2007 totaled 2.33 billion bushels, down 14 percent from December 1, 2006. Soybean stocks stored on farms totaled 1.10 billion bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 1.23 billion bushels, are down 1 percent from last December. Indicated disappearance for September - November 2007 totaled 830 million bushels, down 11 percent from the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2007 totaled 1.13 billion bushels, down 14 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 290 million bushels, down 28 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks, at 838 million bushels, are down 8 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2007 indicated disappearance is 589 million bushels, up 35 percent from the same period a year earlier.

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