

ILLINOIS FARM REPORT



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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HIGHLIGHTS
PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS
GRAIN STOCKS
HOGS AND PIGS
WOOL PRODUCTION
MILK PRODUCTION

**THIS FARM REPORT CONTAINS THE RESULTS
FROM THESE SURVEYS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.**

*March Agricultural Report
March Hogs Report
February Milk Production
January Sheep and Lambs Survey*

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2008

Farmers in **Illinois** intend to plant 12.6 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, five percent less than in 2007. Acreage planted to corn over the last ten 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 seven 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.

(Continued on page 2)

PLANTED ACREAGE - PRINCIPAL CROPS

Crop	Illinois		United States	
	2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008
	Thousand acres			
Corn - All purposes	13,200	12,600	93,600	86,014
Soybeans	8,200	8,800	63,631	74,793
Winter Wheat ^{1/}	1,000	1,200	44,987	46,840
Sorghum - All purposes	80	80	7,718	7,415
Oats	35	40	3,760	3,420
All Hay ^{2/}	680	680	61,625	60,583

^{1/} Includes acreage sown preceding fall.

^{2/} Hay acres for harvest.

ACREAGE BY DISTRICTS - ILLINOIS 2007 PLANTED & 2008 INTENTIONS

District and State	Corn		Soybeans		Wheat	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousand acres					
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

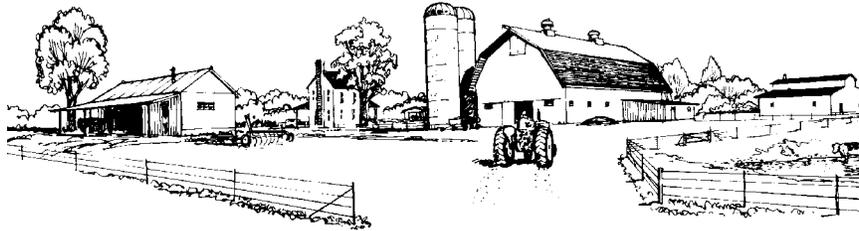
UNITED STATES PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2008

Corn growers around the U.S. intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down eight 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.

Soybean producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but one 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 six percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is four 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 eight 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.



MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Corn stocks in Illinois on March 1, 2008 are estimated at 1.31 billion bushels, 14 percent above March 1, 2007. The December-February disappearance totaled 683.4 million bushels, up four percent from the same period a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 716.8 million bushels, were up nine percent from a year earlier and accounted for 55 percent of the state total. On-farm stocks were up 20 percent from March 1, 2007 to 590 million bushels. **Soybean stocks** are estimated at 219.9 million bushels, 27 percent below last year's March 1 total of 302.6 million bushels. The December-February disappearance totaled 153.9 million bushels, less than one percent below a year earlier. On-farm stocks, at 75 million bushels, were down 50 percent from a year earlier and accounted for 46 percent of the total stocks. Off-farm stocks decreased five percent from last year and totaled 144.9 million bushels. **Wheat** stocks are estimated at 16.7 million bushels for March 1. This is a 32 percent decrease from last year's total of 24.6 million bushels. Wheat prices are at an all-time high, which explains why on-farm stocks, at 200 thousand bushels, are at the lowest level for this quarter in the past ten years. Off-farm stocks, at 16.5 million bushels, accounted for 99 percent of the state total.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 6.86 billion bushels, up 13 percent from March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 3.78 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 14 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.08 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2007-February 2008 indicated disappearance is 3.42 billion bushels, compared with 2.86 billion bushels during the same period last year. **Soybeans stored in all positions** on March 1, 2008 totaled 1.43 billion bushels, down 20 percent from March 1, 2007. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 593 million bushels, down 35 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 835 million bushels, are down five percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2007-February 2008 quarter totaled 904 million bushels, down one percent from the same period a year earlier. **All wheat stored in all positions** on March 1, 2008 totaled 710 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 92.0 million bushels, down 52 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 618 million bushels, are down seven percent from a year ago. The December 2007-February 2008 indicated disappearance is 422 million bushels, down eight percent from the same period a year earlier.

GRAIN AND HAY STOCKS - MARCH 1

Crop and position 1/	Illinois		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousand bushels			
Corn				
On farms	490,000	590,000	3,330,000	3,780,000
Off farms	658,772	716,816	2,738,250	3,078,895
Total	1,148,772	1,306,816	6,068,250	6,858,895
Soybeans				
On farms	150,000	75,000	910,000	593,000
Off farms	152,599	144,895	876,887	835,102
Total	302,599	219,895	1,786,887	1,428,102
All Wheat				
On farms	1,200	200	192,450	91,990
Off farms	23,363	16,539	664,278	617,650
Total	24,563	16,739	856,728	709,640
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	33,900	31,000
Off farms	427	190	37,158	48,038
Total	2/	2/	71,058	79,038
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	17,100	26,100
Off farms	650	728	125,122	159,471
Total	2/	2/	142,222	185,571

1/ Off farm stocks include stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

2/ Not published.

HOGS AND PIGS

The number of hogs and pigs in Illinois on March 1, 2008 was 4.30 million, five percent more than were on hand on March 1, 2007 and one percent more than were on hand December 1, 2007. Breeding hogs on hand March 1, 2008 were estimated at 450 thousand head, two percent more than a year earlier, and market hogs, at 3.85 million head, were up five percent.

The pig crop from December 2007 - February 2008 was 2.162 million, 14 percent above the same period a year earlier. There were 235 thousand sows that farrowed, up 12 percent from a year earlier. The litter rate for the quarter was 9.20 pigs saved per litter, unchanged compared to the previous quarter's rate.

Farrowing intentions for the March through May quarter of 2008 is 235 thousand, up two percent from those farrowed during this period a year earlier. The first estimate of intentions for the June through August quarter of 2008 is for 235 thousand sows to farrow, down two percent from the previous year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008 was 65.9

million head. This was up seven percent from March 1, 2007, but down two percent from December 1, 2007. Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than one percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up seven percent from last year, but down two percent from last quarter.

The December 2007 - February 2008 pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up six percent from 2007 and up nine percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up five percent from 2007 and up seven percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.21 for the December 2007 - February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS, MARCH 1, 2007-2008

	Illinois			Iowa			United States		
	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007
Breeding	1,000 head 440	450	Percent 102	1,000 head 1,090	1,100	Percent 101	1,000 head 6,110	6,138	Percent 100
Market	3,660	3,850	105	15,810	17,600	111	55,749	59,770	107
Under 60 lbs.	1,310	1,390	106	4,650	5,420	117	20,381	21,897	107
60-119 lbs.	890	920	103	4,210	4,600	109	13,356	14,291	107
120-179 lbs.	790	830	105	3,780	4,130	109	11,679	12,443	107
180 lbs. & over	670	710	106	3,170	3,450	109	10,334	11,140	108
Total	4,100	4,300	105	16,900	18,700	111	61,860	65,909	107

HOGS & PIGS: FARROWINGS & PIG CROP, 2007-2008

	Illinois			Iowa			United States		
	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007
Sows Farrowing	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Dec.-Feb. 1/	210	235	112	455	500	110	2,905	3,051	105
Mar.-May	230	235 2/	102	480	490 2/	102	3,033	3,047 2/	100
Jun.-Aug.	240	235 2/	98	480	490 2/	102	3,114	3,037 2/	98
Sep.-Nov. 1/	215	235	109	480	510	106	2,949	3,099	105
Pig Crop									
Dec.-Feb. 1/	1,901	2,162	114	4,095	4,575	112	26,396	28,094	106
Sep.-Nov. 1/	1,957	2,162	110	4,344	4,743	109	26,857	28,690	107
Pigs Per Litter	Number			Number			Number		
Dec.-Feb. 1/	9.05	9.20	--	9.00	9.15	--	9.09	9.21	--
Sep.-Nov. 1/	9.10	9.20	--	9.05	9.30	--	9.11	9.26	--

1/ December and September through November of prior year.

2/ Intentions.

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

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WOOL PRODUCTION

Illinois wool production in 2007 totaled 410,000 pounds, 40,000 pounds above production in 2006. The number of sheep and lambs shorn in 2007 was 53,000, down two thousand from the previous year. The average price per pound for wool, at \$0.26, was down two cents from 2006. Value of wool production increased to \$107,000 from \$104,000 in 2006.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2007 was 34.5 million pounds, down four percent from 2006. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.71 million head, down 147,000 from 2006. The average price paid for wool sold in 2007 was \$0.88 per pound for a total value of \$30.3 million, up from \$24.5 million in 2006.

WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE, 2006-2007

State	Illinois		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Sheep shorn (000) head	55.0	53.0	4,852.0	4,705.0
Weight/fleece (pounds)	6.7	7.7	7.4	7.3
Production (000 lbs.)	370	410	36,019	34,533
Price/pound (dollars)	0.28	0.26	0.68	0.88
Value (000 dollars)	104	107	24,510	30,258

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Illinois during February 2008 totaled 155 million pounds, up three percent from last February. The number of milk cows on farms averaged 102,000 head, down 1,000 head from February of last year. Milk per cow averaged 1,515 pounds for February, 55 pounds above February 2007.

Estimated milk production in the U.S. during February 2008 totaled 15.1 billion pounds, up five percent from February 2007. Production per cow averaged 1,634 pounds, 67 pounds above February 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. was 9.25 million head in February, 112,000 head above February 2007.

MILK PRODUCTION: ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, FEBRUARY 2007-2008

		February					
		Illinois			United States		
		2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	103	102	99	9,136	9,248	101
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,460	1,515	104	1,567	1,634	104
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	150	155	103	14,321	15,107	105

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