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# PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS & GRAIN STOCKS

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Released: March 31, 2005

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## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Kansas growers expect to plant 19.3 million acres to the four major crops (wheat, sorghum, corn, and soybeans), up 1 percent from 2004. **Wheat** seeded in the fall of 2004 totaled 10.1 million acres, unchanged from the December forecast but up 1 percent from the previous year.

**Sorghum** acreage expected to be planted, at 2.90 million acres, is down 9 percent from a year ago. **Corn** planting intentions totaled 3.40 million, up 10 percent from the 2004 acreage. **Soybean** planted acreage is expected to be 2.90 million acres, up 4 percent from last year. **Oat** seedings are expected to be down 8 percent from 2004 at 110,000 acres. **Barley** seedings, at 20,000 acres, are up from the 15,000 acres planted in 2004.

**Sunflower** acreage to be planted, at 300,000 acres, is up 75 percent from last year. Oil-type varieties account for 260,000 of the sunflower acreage while non-oil, or confectionary, varieties make up the balance of 40,000 acres. **Dry beans**, at 9,500 acres, are up 500 acres from the previous year. **All hay** for harvest, at 3.30 million acres, is down 50,000 acres from 2004. **Cotton** is expected to be planted on 80,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year.

Due to the discovery of Asian soybean rust in the United States and the heightened speculation of how growers would react to the fast-spreading, yield-reducing disease, questions were included in the March Agricultural Survey to measure farmer awareness of Asian soybean rust and how its discovery has affected their planting decisions for the 2005 crop. Results of the survey concluded that it did not affect soybean planting intentions for the majority of Kansas farmers. For the complete results of the survey go to <http://www.nass.usda.gov> on the Internet.

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## GRAIN STOCKS

Kansas **wheat** stocks in all positions totaled 126.2 million bushels on March 1, down 34 percent from December 2004 and 25 percent less than last March. Wheat stored in off-farm locations (mills, elevators, warehouses, and processors) totaled 115.2 million bushels and accounted for 91 percent of the total. On-farm stocks totaled 11.0 million bushels, compared with 13.0 million bushels last March.

**Sorghum grain** in all positions totaled 115.8 million bushels, down 31 percent from December 2004 but 53 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 96.8 million bushels and on-farm stocks totaled 19.0 million bushels.

Kansas **corn** stocks in all locations, at 206.1 million bushels, were down 32 percent from December but 55 percent above last March. Off-farm stocks, at 141.1 million bushels, accounted for 68 percent of the total corn stocks. On-farm stocks, at 65.0 million bushels, were up 41 percent from the 2004 March stocks.

Kansas **soybeans** in all locations totaled 47.4 million bushels, down 46 percent from December but 62 percent above the March 2004 level. Off-farm stocks, at 32.4 million bushels, were up 38 percent from last year and accounted for 68 percent of the total soybean stocks. On-farm stocks, at 15.0 million bushels, were up from 5.7 million last year.