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Corn Acreage Expands Nationwide *Maryland and Delaware Farmers Follow Suit*

United States: Corn growers intend to plant 90.5 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2007, up 15 percent from 2006 and 11 percent higher than 2005. If realized this would be the highest acreage since 1944, when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up in nearly all States as high corn prices are encouraging farmers to plant more acres to corn. The increase in intended corn acres is partially offset by lower expected acres of soybeans in the Corn Belt and Great Plains and fewer expected acres of cotton and rice in the Delta and Southeast. Illinois farmers intend to plant a record high 12.9 million acres of corn this spring, up 1.60 million acres from last year. North Dakota and Minnesota growers also expect to plant record high corn acres, up 910,000 and 600,000 acres, respectively.

Soybean producers intend to plant 67.1 million acres in 2007, down 11 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest planted area since 1996. Acreage decreases are expected in all growing areas, except in New York and the Southeast. Large decreases in soybean acreage are expected across the Corn Belt, with the largest decline expected in Illinois, down 1.40 million acres from 2006. However, area planted to soybeans is expected to increase in the Southeast, with Georgia expecting the largest increase from last year at 95,000 acres. Planted acreage in New York is expected to be the largest on record at 210,000 acres.

Maryland: Maryland farmers are expected to plant 550,000 acres of corn this spring, up 12 percent from 490,000 acres planted in 2006. At the same time, soybean acreage is expected to drop 9 percent to 430,000 acres. This matches the largest number of acres planted to corn since 1992 and the lowest soybean acreage since the 1987 figure of 420,000 acres. Farmers also report that they have planted 225,000 acres of winter wheat and 51,000 acres of barley, compared with 210,000 acres of wheat and 50,000 acres of barley in 2006. Small grain plantings have increased in response to Maryland's popular cover crop program. Hay production should remain close to 2006 levels, as growers report they will harvest hay from 210,000 acres. This compares with 205,000 acres of hay harvested last year.

Delaware: Delaware farmers indicate they will plant 185,000 acres of corn this spring, up 9 percent from 170,000 acres of corn planted in 2006. This is the largest number of acres planted in corn since 1985. There will be a corresponding loss of soybean acreage. Soybean acreage is expected to be down 11 percent to 160,000 acres, as compared with 180,000 acres in 2006 and the lowest since 1971. Farmers have also planted more small grains this year, with 57,000 acres of winter wheat and 29,000 acres of barley reported. This compares with 48,000 acres of wheat and 27,000 acres of barley in 2006. Hay will be cut from an estimated 15,000 acres, compared to 2006 acreage of 14,000.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2006 AND 2007

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Planted</i>		<i>Harvested</i>		<i>Average Yield</i>		<i>Production</i>	
		<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i> ¹	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
<i>Maryland</i>		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn	ACR	490	550	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	425	----	142	----	60,350	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	60	----	17	----	1,020	----
Soybeans	BU	470	430	465	----	34	----	15,810	----
Winter Wheat	BU	210	225	125	----	68	----	8,500	----
Barley	BU	50	51	32	----	87	----	2,784	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	205	210	2.78	----	569	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	40	----	3.90	----	156	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	165	----	2.50	----	413	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	38,000	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.8	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.0	----	2.9	----	320	----	928	----
<i>Delaware</i>									
Corn	ACR	170	185	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	161	----	145	----	23,345	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	8	----	20	----	160	----
Soybeans	BU	180	160	177	----	31	----	5,487	----
Winter Wheat	BU	48	57	45	----	67	----	3,015	----
Barley	BU	27	29	24	----	80	----	1,920	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	14	15	2.86	----	40	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	5	----	3.90	----	20	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	9	----	2.20	----	20	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	----	2.1	----	240	----	504	----
<i>United States</i>								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn	ACR	78,327	90,454	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	70,648	----	149	----	10,535	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6,477	----	16	----	105	----
Soybeans	BU	75,522	67,140	74,602	----	43	----	3,188	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,575	44,505	31,117	----	42	----	1,298	----
Barley	BU	3,452	3,703	2,951	----	61	----	180	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	60,807	63,056	2.33	----	142	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	21,384	----	3.35	----	72	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,423	----	1.78	----	70	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,843	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.06	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	58.4	----	54.3	----	340	----	18.4	----

¹ Intended plantings in 2007 as indicated by reports from farmers.