



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Good Growing Season for Wheat

**Maryland:** The Maryland small grain production reflects a good growing season for the wheat crop. Wheat yields averaged 68 bushels per acre which is the same as last year while barley yields averaged 84 bushels per acre which is 3 bushels below last year. A total of 220,000 acres were planted for wheat with 170,000 harvested for grain. Participation in the Maryland Cover Crop Program resulted in a large number of acres planted and harvested for grain compared to last year. Grain production increased to 11.56 million bushels in 2007, up 36 percent from the 8.50 million bushels produced last year. A total of 45,000 acres were planted for barley with 34,000 harvested for grain. The remaining 11,000 acres planted were enrolled in the Maryland Cover Crop Program, or were used for other purposes. Farmers reported an average yield for barley at 84 bushels per acre, 3 bushels below the 87 bushels per acre harvested in 2006. Total production is estimated at 2.86 million bushels, up 2.5 percent from last year's 2.78 million bushels.

**Delaware:** The Delaware wheat yield averaged 68 bushels per acre this season, 1 bushel above last year's yield of 67 bushels per acre. A total of 57,000 acres planted, 55,000 were harvested for grain, resulting in total production of 3.74 million bushels. This is 24 percent above last year's production of 3.02 million bushels. Yield for barley is estimated at 78 bushels per acre which is 2 bushels below last year. A total 21,000 acres planted, 19,000 acres were harvested for grain, resulting in a total production of 1.48 million bushels, down 23 percent from last year's 1.92 million bushels.

**United States:** All wheat production totals 2.07 billion bushels in 2007, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up 14 percent from 2006. Grain area is 51.0 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 40.5 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from the last forecast but up 1.8 bushels from last year. The level of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.52 billion bushels, up 17 percent; other spring wheat, 479 million bushels, up 4 percent; Durum wheat, 71.7 million bushels, up 34 percent.

Barley production is estimated at 212 million bushels, down 5 percent from the August forecast but up 18 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 60.4 bushels, is down 2.7 bushels from the previous forecast and 0.7 bushel below the 2006 yield. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.51 million acres, down 1 percent from August but 19 percent above a year ago.