



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA Releases Final Production Estimates for the 2007 Grain Crop

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service has released final crop production estimates for 2007. As predicted, the U.S. produced the largest corn crop on record, a result of increased acreage and high yields. Production of soybeans, on the other hand, dropped as acreage decreased. Growers in Maryland and Delaware followed the national trend and shifted more acreage into corn. However, severe drought in the mid-Atlantic reduced yields and brought production in Maryland and Delaware to the lowest in recent years.

**Maryland:** Maryland farmers planted 540,000 acres of corn in 2007, up 10 percent from 2006 and the most since 1992, when 550,000 acres were planted. Drought severely impacted yields, however, resulting in more corn acreage cut for silage or abandoned. Of the 540,000 acres planted, 455,000 acres were harvested for grain, 75,000 acres were cut for silage, and the remaining 10,000 acres were abandoned. Yield for grain is estimated at 103 bushels per acre, for a total production of 46.9 million bushels. This is down 22 percent from 2006, when 60.4 million bushels of corn was produced from 425,000 acres, and is the lowest corn production since the drought of 2002, when Maryland produced 31.5 million bushels of corn. Silage yield is estimated at 12 tons per acre, down 29 percent from last year, for a total production of 900,000 tons of silage. As acreage sifted to corn, Maryland farmers planted 400,000 acres of soybeans, 70,000 acres less than were planted in 2006. A large number of these acres were abandoned due to drought conditions, resulting in 380,000 acres harvested for grain. Yield on the harvested acreage averaged 27 bushels per acre, the lowest since 2002. Production of soybeans is estimated at 10.3 million bushels, the smallest crop since 1987, when 9.2 million bushels were produced. Acres harvested for hay increased 10,000 acres from last year to 215,000 acres. Alfalfa acreage remained unchanged, at 40,000 acres, while acres of all other types of hay increased to 175,000 acres. Despite the increased acreage, drought conditions resulted in a 19 percent decline in hay production from 2006. Alfalfa production is estimated at 112,000 tons, at an average yield of 2.8 tons per acre, and production of all other types of hay is estimated at 350,000 tons, at an average yield of 2.0 tons per acre, for a total production of 462,000 tons of hay. This compares with 156,000 tons of hay produced last year, and is the lowest hay production since 1936. USDA also released the first estimate of 2008 winter wheat plantings. An estimated 250,000 acres of winter wheat were planted in Maryland this fall, up 14 percent from 220,000 acres planted last year.

**Delaware:** Delaware farmers planted 195,000 acres of corn in 2007, up 14 percent from 2006 and the most corn acreage planted since 1981. A total of 185,000 acres were harvested for grain and 7,000 acres were harvested for silage. Severe drought during the growing season reduced yields to 97 bushels per acre, the lowest yield since the drought of 2002, when yield averaged 84 bushels per acre. As a result, corn production dropped 23 percent from last year to 17.9 million bushels. Silage production plummeted to 70,000 tons from 160,000 tons produced in 2006, an average 10 tons per acre. The increase in corn acreage was matched by a decline in soybean acreage. Delaware farmers planted 150,000 acres of soybeans in 2007, the least acres planted since 1967, when 149,000 acres of soybeans were planted. A total of 145,000 acres were harvested for beans at an average yield of 24 bushels per acre, for a total production of 3.5 million bushels. Production of soybeans has not been this low since 1970 when 3.3 million bushels were produced in Delaware. Hay was harvested on 15,000 acres, including 5,000 acres of alfalfa and 10,000 acres of all other types of hay, the same as in 2006. Yields were reduced significantly due to the drought. Growers reported an average yield of 2.2 tons per acre for alfalfa hay, as compared with 3.9 tons per acre in 2006, and an average 1.8 tons per acre for all other types of hay, down from 2.2 tons per acre last year. This resulted in 29,000 tons of hay produced, the lowest on record. USDA also released the first estimate of 2008 winter wheat plantings. Delaware farmers planted an estimated 80,000 acres this fall, up 40 percent from last year. This is the largest planting of winter wheat since 1996, when growers also planted 80,000 acres of winter wheat.

**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.

**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>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
<b><i>Maryland</i></b>		<b><i>1,000 Acres</i></b>				<b><i>1,000</i></b>			
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	490	540	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	425	455	142	103	60,350	46,865
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	60	75	17	12	1,020	900
Soybeans	BU	470	400	465	380	34	27	15,810	10,260
Wheat, Winter	BU	210	220	125	170	68	68	8,500	11,560
Barley	BU	50	45	32	34	87	84	2,784	2,856
Hay, All	TON	----	----	205	215	2.78	2.15	569	462
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	40	40	3.90	2.80	156	112
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	165	175	2.50	2.00	413	350
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	34,000	33,000
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.7	3.3
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	320	320	928	960
<b><i>Delaware</i></b>									
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	170	195	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	161	185	145	97	23,345	17,945
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	8	7	20	10	160	70
Soybeans	BU	180	150	177	145	31	24	5,487	3,480
Wheat, Winter	BU	48	57	45	55	67	68	3,015	3,740
Barley	BU	27	21	24	19	80	78	1,920	1,482
Hay, All	TON	----	----	14	15	2.86	1.93	40	29
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	5	5	3.90	2.20	20	11
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	9	10	2.20	1.8	20	18
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	240	260	504	520
<b><i>United States</i></b>								<b><i>1,000,000</i></b>	
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	78,327	93,600	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	70,648	86,542	149	151	10,535	13,074
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,477	6,071	16	18	105	106
Soybeans	BU	75,522	63,631	74,602	62,820	43	41	3,188	2,585
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,575	44,987	31,117	35,952	42	42	1,298	1,516
Barley	BU	3,452	4,020	2,951	3,508	61	60	180	212
All Hay	TON	----	----	60,927	61,625	2.34	2.44	142	150
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,434	21,670	3.36	3.35	72	73
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,493	39,955	1.78	1.95	70	78
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,932	9,255
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.01	1.03
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	58.0	53.7	53.9	50.4	337	335	18.2	16.9

<sup>1</sup> Acres planted for all purposes.