



News Release

May 12, 2006

Low Expectations for 2006 Wheat Crop

Wheat production in Delaware and Maryland is expected to be down this year. Wheat acreage has dropped in both states and yields are expected to be lower due to lack of precipitation in the area.

Maryland: Wheat production is expected to be far below last year's 9.2 million bushels, due to lower yields and a drop in acres harvested. Producers expect to harvest 130,000 acres of wheat from the 200,000 acres planted, with an expected yield of 60 bushels per acre. This will result in a total production of 7.8 million bushels. Yield for wheat is expected to be down from last year's yield of 66 bushels per acre, although still above the five-year average of 58 bushels per acre. Harvested acres have dropped from last year as more farmers are enrolling in the Maryland Cover Crop program for small grains.

Delaware: Wheat production is expected to drop from 3.6 million bushels harvested in 2005 to only 2.3 million bushels this year. This is a result of loss of wheat acreage as well as lower expected yields. Yield for wheat is expected to be to only 51 bushels per acre this year, significantly down from the 70 bushels per acre harvested in 2005, and below the five-year average of 59 bushels per acre. Of the 48,000 acres planted, farmers expect to harvest 46,000 acres, as compared with 51,000 acres harvested in 2005.

United States: Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2005 AND 2006

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Maryland		1,000 Acres				1,000			
Corn ¹	ACR	470	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	460	400	----	135	----	54,000	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	65	----	17	----	1,105	----
Soybeans	BU	480	470	470	----	34	----	15,980	----
Winter Wheat	BU	155	200	140	130	66	60	9,240	7,800
Barley	BU	46	52	41	----	86	----	3,526	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	190	200	2.79	----	531	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	40	----	3.90	----	156	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	150	----	2.50	----	375	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	41,000	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	4.2	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.5	----	3.4	----	260	----	884	----
Delaware									
Corn ¹	ACR	160	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	155	154	----	143	----	22,022	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	5	----	19	----	95	----
Soybeans	BU	185	180	182	----	26	----	4,732	----
Winter Wheat	BU	52	48	51	46	70	51	3,570	2,346
Barley	BU	29	27	27	----	81	----	2,187	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	14	13	2.79	----	39	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	5	----	3.60	----	18	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	9	----	2.30	----	21	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.3	----	3.1	----	260	----	806	----
United States								1,000,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	81,759	78,019	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	75,107	----	148	----	11,112	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	5,920	----	18	----	106	----
Soybeans	BU	72,142	76,895	71,361	----	43	----	3,086	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,433	41,404	33,794	31,177	44	42	1,499	1,323
Barley	BU	3,875	3,667	3,269	----	65	----	212	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,649	61,478	2.44	----	151	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	22,389	----	3.38	----	76	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,260	----	1.91	----	75	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,870	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.14	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.4	----	51.4	----	342	----	18	----

1 Acres planted for all purposes.