



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Nebraska Field Office • Lincoln, Nebraska



Media Contact: Mark Harris (402) 437-5541
E-mail: nass-ne@nass.usda.gov

NEBRASKA MAY 1 WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST AND HAY STOCKS

LINCOLN, Neb., May 12, 2006 -- Based on May 1 conditions, Nebraska's 2006 **winter wheat** crop is forecast at 62.7 million bushels, down 9 percent from last year's crop, according to the Nebraska Field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Average yield is forecast at 38 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year and the ten-year average.

Acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 1.65 million acres, down 110,000 acres or 6 percent from last year. This would be 94 percent of the planted acres, compared to 95 percent last year and the ten-year average of 93 percent. The April 30 wheat condition was rated 54 percent good to excellent, below last year but above average. Crop development was a week behind last year but near normal. As of April 30, soil moisture supplies were below a year ago but above the 5-year average level. "The crop came through the winter with limited winterkill. However, reduced soil moisture levels in western counties continue to concern wheat growers," according to Mark Harris, Director of the Nebraska Field Office.

May 1 **hay stocks** of 1.07 million tons are down 26 percent from last year and 11 percent below the ten year average. Winter storms and increased cattle inventories have reduced current supplies.

Access the National publication for this release at:
<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bb/2006/crop0506.pdf>

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov