



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
Media Contact: Joseph L. Parsons (402) 437-5541

NEBRASKA'S MARCH 1, 2008 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Lincoln, Neb., March 31, 2008 -- Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage planted to soybeans, dry edible beans, and sugarbeets, decrease acreage devoted to corn, hay, oats, sunflowers and wheat (sown last fall), while leaving sorghum acreage unchanged from a year ago, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office.

Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 8.8 million acres for all purposes in 2008, down 6 percent from last year but still up 9 percent from 2006.

Soybean growers intend to plant 5.0 million acres, up 32 percent from last year and just 1 percent below the record high set two years ago.

Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.95 million acres, down 5 percent from a year earlier but 8 percent higher than the 2006 crop.

Sorghum growers expect to plant 350,000 acres, unchanged from last year.

Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 125,000 acres, up 14 percent from 2007. Sugarbeet plantings of 52,000 acres would be up 9 percent from a year ago. Sunflower planting intentions, at 45,000 acres, are down 8 percent from last year and the lowest since 1992.

Hay acreage for harvest, at 2.5 million, would be down 6 percent from last year and the lowest since the series began in 1909. Oat planting intentions, at 100,000 acres, are down 17 percent from 2007 and the lowest in over 100 years.

These acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted the first two weeks of March. This report is intended to assist growers in finalizing their acreage plans for 2008. Actual area planted may vary from that indicated due to farmer's final assessment of planting options, effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in price expectations for the coming crop year.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/ProsPlan/ProsPlan-03-31-2008.pdf>

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