



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania's August 1, 2008 Crop Forecast

HARRISBURG, PA, Aug 12, 2008 --- Based on August 1, 2008 forecasts for yield and production, the **Keystone state's** farmers expect to produce more oats, barley, winter wheat, other dry hay, soybeans, and tobacco than last year. Production is expected to be below last year for corn for grain and dry alfalfa hay according to the Pennsylvania office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Corn acreage to be harvested for grain, at 950,000, is down 30,000 acres from last year. Based on crop conditions as of August 1, corn yield is forecast at 130 bushels per acre, which is 2 bushels per acre above last year's yield. If realized, the corn for grain production would be 123.5 million bushels, which is 2 percent less than last year.

Oats acreage for harvest, at 80,000, is unchanged from a year ago. Based on crop conditions as of August 1, the oat yield is forecast at 58 bushels per acre, which is down 5 bushels from the July 1 forecast, but 2 bushels above last year's final yield. The resulting oat production of 4.64 million bushels would be 4 percent above last year. Barley acreage for harvest, at 55,000, is 13,000 acres more than 2007. Barley yield is forecast at 81 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast and up 8 bushels from a year ago. Barley production is expected to be 4.46 million bushels, 45 percent above last year's production. Winter wheat acres harvested totaled 185,000, which is 19 percent more than last year. The winter wheat yield as of August 1 is estimated at 60 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels per acre from both the July 1 forecast and the final yield for 2007. The resulting winter wheat production of 11.1 million bushels is 23 percent above last year.

Soybean acreage for harvest is set at 440,000, up 20,000 acres from last year. The expected yield based on August 1 conditions is 42 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from 2007. Production is set at 18.5 million bushels, 7 percent above last year.

Alfalfa acreage harvested for dry hay is estimated at 520,000, down 80,000 acres from 2007. As of August 1, yield is forecast at 3.00 tons per acre, unchanged from last year. The resulting production, at 1.56 million tons, is 13 percent less than last year. All other hay acres harvested for dry hay is estimated at 1,230,000, up 30,000 acres from last year. The expected yield as of August 1 of 2.20 tons per acre is up 0.2 ton per acre from 2007. Total production, at 2.71 million tons, is 13 percent more than 2007.

Light air-cured burley tobacco acres for harvest are estimated at 4,800. This is down 200 acres from the 5,000 acres of burley tobacco harvested last year. The yield for burley tobacco is forecast at 2,300 pounds per acre, up 150 pounds from a year ago. Production is estimated at 11.04 million pounds, which is 3 percent more than 2007. Southern Maryland-type tobacco acres for harvest are estimated at 2,000, up 900 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 2,200 pounds, which is up 100 pounds from the 2,100 pounds per acre produced in 2007. Production is estimated at 4.40 million pounds, which is 90 percent more than 2007. Pennsylvania seed-leaf tobacco acreage, estimated at 2,000, is up 200 acres from last year. The forecast yield of 2,350 pounds is 50 pounds above 2007. Production, at 4.70 million pounds, is 14 percent more than last year.

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United States: Corn production is forecast at 12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent from last year, but 17 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 155.0 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels from last year. If realized, the yield would be the second highest on record, behind 2004. Production would be the second highest on record, behind last year when producers harvested the most acres of corn for grain since 1933. Growers expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, up 350,000 acres from June, but 8 percent lower than last year.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 15 percent from last year, but down 7 percent from the record high production of 2006. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.5 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from 2007. Area for harvest is forecast at 73.3 million acres, up 2 percent from June and up 17 percent from 2007.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.87 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month and 24 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.6 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and up 4.4 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from last month, but up 12 percent from last year.

Oat production for the 2008 crop year is forecast at 89.9 million bushels, 3 percent below the July 1 forecast and 2 percent below last year's record low 91.6 million bushels. Based on conditions as of August 1, the yield is forecast at 62.3 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from last month's forecast but up 1.4 bushels from 2007. Expected area to be harvested as grain or seed is 1.44 million acres, down 4 percent from last year.

Barley production for 2008 is forecast at 218 million bushels, virtually unchanged from last month and 3 percent above 2007. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the U.S. is forecast at 59.9 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushels from July, but down 0.5 bushel from last year. Expected area to be harvested as grain or seed, at 3.64 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2007.

Production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures for dry hay is forecast at 70.9 million tons, down 2 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.41 tons per acre, slightly higher than the 3.35 tons from last year. Harvested area is 20.8 million acres, unchanged from June but 4 percent below the previous year's acreage.

Production of all other dry hay for 2008 is forecast at 77.0 million tons, down 1 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.94 tons per acre, down slightly from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 39.7 million acres, unchanged from June, but down 1 percent from the previous year.

All tobacco production for 2008 is forecast at 796 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2007 and 9 percent above 2006. Area harvested is forecast at 350,440 acres, 2 percent below last year. Yields for 2008 are expected to average 2,271 pounds per acre, 80 pounds greater than 2007.

Midwest Flood

The August *Crop Production* report contains NASS's first estimates of yield and production for corn, soybeans and other spring-planted row crops. To help ensure that these estimates were based on the best information available, NASS supplemented its standard data collection activities in order to account for the impact of the June flooding in the Midwest. NASS personnel re-interviewed approximately 9,000 farmers in flood-affected areas who had previously reported their planted acreage to the agency in early June. Additionally, NASS increased the number of corn and soybean fields selected for objective field measurements in the flood-affected areas and also increased the sample size for the Agricultural Yield Survey, through which farmers report expected crop yields.

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