



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania June Acreage

HARRISBURG, PA, Jun 30, 2008 - - - NASS released the 2008 *Acreage* report as scheduled on June 30 at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

The initial data for the annual *Acreage* report was collected during the first two weeks of June, before the majority of the flooding occurred in the Midwest. In an effort to more accurately determine how much of the planted area producers still intend to harvest for grain, NASS re-interviewed 1,150 farmers last week in flood-affected areas of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

While many farmers are still assessing their damage and their options, this re-interview process provided a first look at how much of the planted corn and soybeans may remain standing for harvest.

NASS's August 12 *Crop Production* report will contain the first 2008 estimates of corn and soybean yield and production. To help ensure that these estimates are based on the best information available, NASS will supplement its standard survey activities by re-interviewing approximately 9,000 farmers in the flood-affected areas. These re-interviews will be conducted in the middle of July, allowing time for flooded fields to dry and for farmers to fully assess their options. Additionally, we will increase the number of corn and soybean fields selected for objective field measurements.

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Based on acreage planted by June 1, 2008 and intended acres that remained to be planted, the Keystone state's farmers expect to harvest more acres of sorghum for grain, soybeans, winter wheat, barley, and tobacco than in 2007. Fewer acres of dry hay and corn for grain are expected to be harvested in 2008, while oat acreage for harvest is expected to be unchanged according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 1,370,000, down 40,000 acres from last year. Growers expect to harvest 950,000 acres of corn for grain, down 30,000 acres or 3 percent from a year ago. Sorghum acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 16,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from a year ago. Growers expect to harvest 4,000 acres for grain, which is also up 1,000 acres from last year. Soybean acreage planted is estimated at 445,000 acres, up 20,000 from last year. Eight percent of this year's soybean acres are expected to be planted following another harvested crop, down from 19 percent last year. Soybean acreage for harvest is estimated at 440,000 acres for 2008, up 5 percent from the 420,000 acres harvested last year.

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Oat acreage planted in 2008 is estimated at 110,000, down 5,000 acres or 4 percent from a year ago. Growers expect to harvest 80,000 acres for grain, which is unchanged from last year. Winter wheat acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 185,000 acres, up 30,000 acres or 19 percent from last year. Barley acreage for harvest, at 55,000, is up 13,000 acres or 31 percent from 2007.

All acres for harvest of dry hay in 2008 are estimated at 1,750,000, down 50,000 acres or 3 percent from last year. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures for dry hay, at 520,000 acres, are down 80,000 acres or 13 percent from last year. All other dry hay, at 1,230,000 acres, is up 30,000 acres from last year.

Tobacco acres for harvest increased 11 percent from a year ago with growers expecting to harvest 8,800 acres, compared to 7,900 acres last year. Of these acres, 2,000 acres are expected to be Southern Maryland type tobacco, 2,000 acres of Pennsylvania seedleaf type tobacco, and the remaining 4,800 acres expected to be light air-cured burley tobacco.

At the United States level, corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Despite the decrease, corn planted acreage is the second highest since 1946, behind last year's total of 93.6 million acres. Growers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres of corn for grain, down 9 percent from 2007. Farmers increased corn plantings 1.31 million acres from their March intentions. The 2008 soybean planted area is estimated at 74.5 million acres, up 17 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Area for harvest, at 72.1 million acres, is up 15 percent from 2007. Area planted to sorghum in 2008 is estimated at 7.27 million acres, down 6 percent from 2007. Area to be harvested for grain is forecast at 6.41 million acres, also down 6 percent from last year.

The 2008 winter wheat planted area, estimated at 46.6 million acres, is down slightly from the previous estimate, but up 4 percent from 2007. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 40.3 million acres, up slightly from the June forecast, and up 12 percent from last year. Acres seeded for the 2008 oat crop totaled 3.47 million acres, showing a continued decline from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007. This 8 percent decrease from the previous year will bring the oat crop to another record low level. Barley growers seeded 4.13 million acres for the 2008 crop, up 3 percent from the 4.02 million acres seeded last year. Acres for harvest, at 3.64 million, are up 4 percent from 2007.

Farmers expect to harvest 60.4 million acres of dry hay in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Expected harvested area of dry alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 20.8 million acres, is down 4 percent from 2007. Expected area for harvest of all other types of dry hay totals 39.7 million acres, down 1 percent from the 40.0 million acres harvested in 2007.

All tobacco acres for harvest in 2008 are estimated at 348,040 acres, down 2 percent from 2007 and 1 percent below the March intentions. Acreage decreases from 2007 in flue-cured, burly, and shade-grown tobacco more than offset increases in all other types.

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