



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

In Cooperation with Clemson University

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Released on May 11, 2007

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WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST DOWN FROM 2006

Based on May 1 conditions, SOUTH CAROLINA'S WINTER WHEAT production in 2007 is expected to total 4.73 million bushels, the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today. This is down 23 percent from the 6.15 million bushels produced in 2006, and 45 percent below the 8.58 million bushels produced in 2005. If realized, this will be the lowest production since 1979. Acres for harvest, at 135,000, is up 12,000 acres from 2006, but down 30,000 from 2005.

This year's expected average yield per acre of 35.0 bushels is down 15 bushels from last year and down 17 bushels from 2005. South Carolina is continuing to experience below average precipitation for the year. Soils continue to dry from lack of precipitation and above average daytime temperatures. In addition, on April 8th South Carolina experienced a modified Arctic-origin air with record cold that affected wheat in the joint and head stages.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.62 billion bushels, up 24 percent from 2006. Area harvested for grain totals 37.2 million acres, up 19 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from the previous year. **Hard Red** production is up 51 percent from a year ago to 1.03 billion bushels. **Soft Red** is down 11 percent and totals 347 million bushels. **White** production totals 241 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 18.6 million bushels are Hard White and 222 million bushels are Soft White.