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South Carolina Field Office . 1835 Assembly St, Rm 1008 . Columbia, SC 29201 . (803) 765-5333
www.nass.usda.gov

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Contact: Rhonda Brandt, Director (803)765-5333
Wendy Adams, Agricultural Statistician
nass-sc@nass.usda.gov

WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST UP FROM 2007

Based on May 1 conditions, SOUTH CAROLINA'S WINTER WHEAT production in 2008 is expected to total 8.50 million bushels, the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today. This is up 103 percent from the 4.19 million bushels produced in 2007, and 38 percent above the 6.15 million bushels produced in 2006. Acres for harvest, at 170,000, are up 35,000 acres from 2007, and up 47,000 from 2006. This year's expected average yield per acre of 50.0 bushels is up 19 bushels from last year and no change from 2006. The yield forecast, if realized, would equal the second highest state yield on record, 2 bushels below the 52 bushels per acre set in 2005.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.78 billion bushels, up 17 percent from 2007. Area harvested for grain totals 40.2 acres, up 12 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.3 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year. **Hard Red** production is up 5 percent from a year ago to 1.01 billion bushels. **Soft Red** production is up 54 percent and totals 551 million bushels. **White** Production totals 215 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 23.2 million bushels are Hard White and 192 million and 192 million bushels are Soft White.