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News Release

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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
Jim Johnson, Agricultural Statistician
nass-sc@nass.usda.gov

TOBACCO PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY AND WHEAT PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

Based on July 1 conditions, **SOUTH CAROLINA'S** 2008 production of tobacco is expected to be down and wheat is expected to be up from 2007, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office.

This year's **WHEAT** production is estimated at 10.5 million bushels – up 152 percent from last year. The acreage harvested for grain, at 195,000, is 60,000 acres above a year ago. This year's expected average yield of 54 bushels per acre is the same as the June 1 forecast and 23 bushels above the 2007 yield. If realized, this forecasted yield will be the State's highest on record.

The first **TOBACCO** forecast of the season places 2008 production at 45.0 million pounds - down 2 percent from last year. Harvested acres, at 20,000, are down 500 acres from last year. The July 1 yield forecast is 2,250 pounds per acre, unchanged from last year.

UNITED STATES 2008 PRODUCTION AND PERCENT OF PREVIOUS YEAR

Wheat, Winter	1.86	Bil. Bu.	123%
Oats	92.9	Mil. Bu.	101%
Tobacco, Flue Cured	503.1	Mil. Lbs.	100%