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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

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS UP 6 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

WINTER WHEAT seeded in SOUTH CAROLINA during the fall of 2007 for the 2008 crop is estimated at 170,000 acres, the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today. This is 6 percent above the crop of 2007, planted during the fall of 2006, and up 31 percent from the 2006 crop year.

WINTER WHEAT: Planted area for harvest in the UNITED STATES in 2008 is estimated at 46.6 million acres, up 4 percent from 2007. Seeding began last August behind the 5-year average pace and remained behind until mid-November due to a lack of moisture in the Great Plains during much of the seeding period. Nearly all of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1 with the exception of some intended acres in the Southeast and California. Seeding was completed by the end of December in California. The winter wheat crop condition at the end of November was rated at 44 percent good to excellent compared with 53 percent the previous year.