



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

In Cooperation with Clemson University

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Released on January 12, 2009

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WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS DOWN 27 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

WINTER WHEAT seeded in SOUTH CAROLINA during the fall of 2008 for the 2009 crop is estimated at 160,000 acres, the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today. This is 27 percent below the crop of 2008, planted during the fall of 2007, and unchanged from the 2007 crop year.

WINTER WHEAT: Planted area for harvest in the UNITED STATES in 2009 is estimated at 42.1 million acres, down 9 percent from 2008. Seeding began last August behind the 5-year average pace and remained behind until mid-November due to wet weather and delayed row crop harvest. 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 complete by the end of December in California. The winter wheat crop condition at the end of November was rated 65 percent good to excellent compared with 44 percent the previous year.