



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CORN AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR**

**SIoux FALLS, AUGUST 11, 2006** - South Dakota's first corn and soybean production forecast for 2006 is for smaller crops than last year, according to the South Dakota office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The decreases in forecasted production are a result of both fewer acres to be harvested and decreased yields from last year.

**Corn** production in 2006 is forecast at 385 million bushels, down 18 percent from last year's 470.1 million bushels. Yield, forecast at 100 bushels per acre, is down 19 bushels from last year's yield. Acres to be harvested for grain, at 3.85 million, are down 3 percent from last year's corn acres harvested.

South Dakota's August 1 **soybean** production forecast is 108.75 million bushels, down 22 percent from last year's 138.6 million bushels. Estimated yield, at 29 bushels per acre, is down 7 bushels from last year. Acres for harvest, at 3.75 million, are down 3 percent from last year.

**Alfalfa hay** production in South Dakota in 2006 is forecast at 3.36 million tons, down 35 percent from last year, and slightly below the 3.38 million tons from the 2002 drought-reduced crop. Forecasted yield is 1.4 tons per acre, down 0.75 ton from last year. Acres for harvest, at 2.4 million, are unchanged from last year. The August forecast for **other hay** production, at 1.35 million tons, is down 44 percent from last year, and 6 percent below the 1.44 million tons in 2002. Forecasted yield is 0.9 tons per acre, down 0.6 ton from a year ago. Other hay harvested acreage, at 1.5 million, is down 6 percent from last year.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 37.4 million bushels, down 6 percent from the July 1 forecast and 43 percent below last year's 65.56 million bushels. This compares to 20.1 million bushels produced in 2002. The August yield, at 34 bushels, is down 2 bushels from last month's forecast and down 10 bushels from last year.

**Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 55.5 million bushels, unchanged from the July 1 forecast but down 18 percent from last year. Yield, at 30 bushels per acre, is unchanged from last month's forecast, yet down 10 bushels from last year's yield.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 4.4 million bushels, down 20 thousand bushels from 2005. Expected yield, at 40 bushels per acre, is 12 bushels below last year. Grain sorghum harvested acres, at 110,000, are up 29 percent from last year.

**Oat** production is forecast at 10.45 million bushels, unchanged from the July 1 forecast but down 19 percent from last year. The forecasted yield of 55 bushels is unchanged from the July 1 forecast, yet down 17 bushels from last year's yield. Acres harvested for grain are forecast at 190,000, up 10,000 acres from last year.

**Barley** production is forecast at 1.14 million bushels, unchanged from last month but down 50 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 38 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month's forecast, yet down 11 bushels from last year.

**Dry Edible Bean** production is forecast at 31.4 million pounds, up 4 percent from last year. Expected yield, forecast at 1,600 pounds per acre, is down slightly from 1,730 pounds last year. Harvested acres, at 19,600, are up 13 percent from last year.

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