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ROW CROP PRODUCTION LOWER THAN PREVIOUS ESTIMATES

SIoux FALLS, January 12, 2007 – Final 2006 corn & sorghum production estimates show lower yields and production than estimated in November, according to the year-end estimates compiled and released by the South Dakota Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn for grain production totaled 312.34 million bushels in South Dakota, down 19 percent from the November forecast and down 34 percent from 2005. Yield, at 97 bushels per acre, is down 10 bushels from November and down 22 bushels from last year. The 2006 corn production is the lowest since 2002. Producers harvested 3.22 million acres of grain for 2006, down 18 percent from 2005.

Soybean production in 2006 totaled 130.9 million bushels in South Dakota, down 4 percent from the November forecast and 3 percent below last year's production. The average yield was 34 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year. Harvested acres, at 3.85 million, were unchanged from 2005. Planted acres were up 1 percent from 2005, at 3.95 million.

All hay production is estimated at 4.18 million tons, down 45 percent from 2005. The average yield at 1.35 tons per acre, is down 0.54 tons from 2005. Acres harvested were down 900,000 from 2005 to 3.1 million. **Alfalfa hay** production, at 2.88 million tons, was down 44 percent from 2005. Alfalfa hay had an average yield of 1.6 tons per acre, compared to 2.15 tons per acre in 2005. Harvested acres were down 600,000 acres from last year, to 1.8 million. **All other hay** production totaled 1.3 million tons, down 46 percent from last year, and had an average yield of 1.0 ton per acre. Harvested acres, at 1.3 million, were down 300,000 acres from last year. New seedings of alfalfa in 2006 totaled 190,000 acres in South Dakota, up 6 percent from 2005. Newly seeded acres are normally harvested for dry hay for the first time the following year.

Sorghum for grain production in 2006 totaled 2.88 million bushels, down 28 percent from the November forecast and down 35 percent from 2005. Average yield, at 36.0 bushels per acre, was 16 bushels below last year. Harvested acres, at 80,000 were down 6 percent from 2005. Planted acres, at 220,000 were up 22 percent from last year.

All sunflower production in 2006 totaled 437.6 million pounds, down 50 percent from last year. Average yield, at 977 pounds per acre, was 658 pounds lower than last year. Planted and harvested acres totaled 530,000 and 448,000, respectively. **Oil sunflower** production, at 397.7 million pounds, represented 91 percent of the total. Oil sunflowers had a yield of 970 pounds per acre with 410,000 acres harvested. **Non-oil sunflower** production totaled 39.9 million pounds and had a yield of 1,050 pounds per acre from 38,000 acres harvested.

Proso millet grain production in 2006 totaled 2.42 million bushels, down 36 percent from 2005. The average yield of 22.0 bushels per acre was down 11 bushels from a year earlier. Harvested acres, at 110,000, were down 4 percent from 2005, while acres planted, at 155,000 were up 11 percent from 2005.

All forage production from alfalfa and other hay acres was set at 4.3 million tons in 2006. Dry hay production in South Dakota of 4.2 million tons represents 98 percent of the total forage produced. The other 3 percent (or .14 million ton) was haylage and greenchop.

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