



# News Release

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## **CORN & SOYBEAN PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR**

**SIoux FALLS, AUGUST 12, 2008** - South Dakota's first corn and soybean production forecast for 2008 is for larger corn and soybean crops than last year, according to the South Dakota office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

**Corn** production in 2008 is forecast at 567.0 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year's 544.5 million bushels, due to higher yields. Yield, forecast at 135 bushels per acre, is up 14 bushels from last year's yield. Acres to be harvested for grain, at 4.2 million, are down 7 percent (300,000 acres) from last year.

South Dakota's August 1 **soybean** production forecast is 165.64 million bushels, up 24 percent from last year's 133.56 million bushels, due to more acres for harvest. Estimated yield, at 41 bushels per acre, is down 1 bushel from last year's record high. Acres for harvest, at 4.04 million, are up 27 percent (860,000 acres) from last year.

**Alfalfa hay** production in South Dakota in 2008 is forecast at 5.04 million tons, down slightly from last year. Forecasted yield is 2.4 tons per acre, up 0.15 ton from last year. Acres for harvest, at 2.1 million, are down 7 percent from last year. The August forecast for **other hay** production, at 2.56 million tons, is up 3 percent from last year. Forecasted yield is 1.6 tons per acre, unchanged from a year ago. Other hay harvested acreage, at 1.6 million, is up 3 percent from last year.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 89.44 million bushels, up 8 percent from the July 1 forecast but 6 percent below last year's 95.04 million bushels. The August yield, at 52 bushels, is up 4 bushels from both last month's forecast and from last year. If this yield holds it would be a new record high.

**Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 66.65 million bushels, up 2 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 28 percent from last year. Yield, at 43 bushels per acre, is up 1 bushel from last month's forecast and up 4 bushels from last year's yield.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 6.60 million bushels, down 18 percent from 2007. Expected yield, at 60 bushels per acre, is 2 bushels below last year. Grain sorghum harvested acres, at 110,000, are down 15 percent from last year.

**Oat** production is forecast at 7.48 million bushels, down 1 percent from the July 1 forecast and down 19 percent from last year. The forecasted yield of 68 bushels is down 1 bushel from the July 1 forecast, and down 6 bushels from last year's yield. Acres harvested for grain are forecast at 110,000, down 15,000 acres from last year.

**Barley** production is forecast at 1.84 million bushels, unchanged from last month but up 59 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 46 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month's forecast, yet up 6 bushels from last year.

**Dry Edible Bean** production is forecast at 181,000 cwt., down 17 percent from last year. Expected yield, forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, is up 2 percent from 1,860 pounds last year. Harvested acres, at 9,500, are down 19 percent from last year.

*Access this complete report at:*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/CropProd/2000s/2008/CropProd-08-12-2008.pdf>