

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE



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INTENDED CORN, PEANUT, OAT, WHEAT, HAY AND TOBACCO ACREAGES UP

Virginia's corn producers intend to increase acreage in 2007 to 520,000 according to the results of a survey conducted March 1 by the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office. If realized, this would be 40,000 acres or 8 percent above last year's planted acres. Peanut producers plan to increase their acreages this year to 24,000 acres, up 41 percent from 2006. Oat producers intend to plant 18,000 acres, which is 13 percent above last year. Hay acreage intentions are up 20,000 to 1,260,000 acres. Winter Wheat acres increased 21 percent to 230,000 acres.

Virginia's cotton producers expect to decrease their acreage this year to 85,000 acres. This would be 19 percent less than in 2006. Intended soybean acreage at 500,000 acres would be a 4 percent decrease from 2006. Barley acreage seeded last fall for all uses was 50,000 acres, down 14 percent from last year. Acreage intended for sweet potatoes is expected to remain unchanged from last year at 500 acres.

Tobacco acreage intentions devoted to flue will be up in 2007. Producers expect to harvest 18,000 flue-cured tobacco acres in 2007, a 6 percent increase from 2006. Fire-cured tobacco producers intend to harvest 350 acres which is unchanged from last year. Burley producers intend to harvest 2,300 acres this year which is also the same as the 2006 estimate.

Planting of major row crops is just in the beginning or in the planning stages; therefore, producers could change their plans as the planting season progresses.

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Corn Planted Acreage Up 15 Percent from 2006
Soybean Acreage Down 11 Percent
All Wheat Acreage Up 5 Percent
All Cotton Acreage Down 20 Percent

All US **corn** growers intend to plant 90.5 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2007, up 15 percent from 2006 and 11 percent higher than 2005. If realized this would be the highest acreage since 1944, when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up in nearly all States as high corn prices are encouraging farmers to plant more acres to corn. The increase in intended corn acres is partially offset by lower expected acres of soybeans in the Corn Belt and Great Plains and fewer expected acres of cotton and rice in the Delta and Southeast. Illinois farmers intend to plant a record high 12.9 million acres of corn this spring, up 1.60 million acres from last year. North Dakota and Minnesota growers also expect to plant record high corn acres, up 910,000 and 600,000 acres, respectively.

All US **soybean** producers intend to plant 67.1 million acres in 2007, down 11 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest planted area since 1996. Acreage decreases are expected in all growing areas, except in New York and the Southeast. Large decreases in soybean acreage are expected across the Corn Belt, with the largest decline expected in Illinois, down 1.40 million acres from 2006. However, area planted to soybeans is expected to increase in the Southeast, with Georgia expecting the largest increase from last year at 95,000 acres. Planted acreage in New York is expected to be the largest on record at 210,000 acres.

All US **wheat** planted area is estimated at 60.3 million acres, up 5 percent from 2006. The 2007 winter wheat planted area, at 44.5 million acres, is 10 percent above last year and up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.66 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.92 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2007 is expected to total 13.8 million acres, down 7 percent from 2006. Of this total, about 13.3 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2007 is 1.99 million acres, up 6 percent from the previous year.

All US **cotton** plantings for 2007 are expected to total 12.1 million acres, 20 percent below last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 11.9 million, down 21 percent from last year and the lowest since 1989. Growers intend to decrease planted area in all States with the largest acreage declines in Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Texas. American-Pima cotton growers intend to decrease their plantings by 10 percent from 2006, to 292,000 acres. California producers expect to plant 250,000 acres, down 9 percent from last year's record high.

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