

NEWS RELEASE



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



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CORN PLANTED ACREAGE DOWN FROM 2007 SOYBEAN, WHEAT ACREAGE UP

Virginia's corn producers intend to decrease acreage in 2008 to 500,000 according to the results of a survey conducted March 1 by the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office. If realized, planted acreage would be 50,000 acres below last year.

Peanut producers intend to maintain last year's acreage of 22,000 acres. Oat producers intend to plant 18,000 acres, which is 13 percent above last year. Land intended for hay production is 1,340,000 acres, no change from 2007. Winter wheat acres increased 22 percent to 280,000 acres.

Virginia's cotton producers expect to plant 60,000 acres, no change from last year. Soybean acreage is estimated to be 540,000 acres, an 8 percent increase from 2007. Barley acreage seeded last fall for all uses was 65,000 acres, up 35 percent from last year. Acreage intended for sweet potatoes is expected to decrease by 100 acres from last year to 300 acres.

Tobacco acreage intentions devoted to flue are down in 2008. Producers expect to harvest 17,000 flue-cured tobacco acres in 2008, a 6 percent decrease from 2007. Fire-cured tobacco producers intend to harvest 400 acres, unchanged from last year. Burley producers intend to harvest 2,100 acres this year, which is down 100 acres from 2007.

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

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Corn Planted Acreage Down 8 Percent from 2007
Soybean Acreage Up 18 Percent
All Wheat Acreage Up 6 Percent
All Cotton Acreage Down 13 Percent

All US **corn** growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

All US **soybean** producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Acreage increases are expected in all States, except in West Virginia, which is unchanged from last year. The largest increases are expected in Iowa and Nebraska, up 1.25 million acres and 1.20 million acres from 2007, respectively. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Minnesota, and South Dakota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record.

All US **wheat** planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.63 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2008 is expected to total 14.3 million acres, up 8 percent from 2007. Of this total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2008 is 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from the previous year.

All US **cotton** plantings for 2008 are expected to total 9.39 million acres, 13 percent below last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 9.19 million, down 13 percent from last year, the lowest since 1983. Growers intend to decrease planted area in all States except Georgia and Oklahoma. The largest acreage declines are in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. American-Pima cotton growers intend to decrease their plantings by 30 percent from 2007, to 203,600 acres. California producers expect to plant 180,000 acres, down 31 percent from last year.

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