



# AGRI-FACTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Washington Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507



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Contact: Dave Knopf (360)902-1940

[nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

## MARCH CROP WEATHER REVIEW

March went out like a lion, with winter storms bringing snow, rain, wind, and cold weather across the state. Fruit growers battled to minimize frost damage as stone fruits and berries began to leaf and bud. Field work came to a standstill across most of the state due to wet and muddy conditions. Winter wheat crops were covered by snow in some counties. Calving season continued, as livestock producers reported short supplies of hay.

## GRAIN STOCKS

OLYMPIA, Wash., April 1, 2008--The quantity of **wheat** stored in all positions in Washington on March 1, 2008 was lower than the quantity being stored on March 1 a year earlier. Dave Knopf, State Director for the USDA, NASS, Washington Field Office stated that "Wheat stocks in Washington totaled 45.7 million bushels, a decrease of 24 percent from March 1, 2007. This is the lowest March 1 wheat stocks since 1974."

**Wheat** stored on farms in Washington on March 1, 2008, totaled 2.3 million bushels, down 2.7 million bushels from March 1, 2007. Off-farm wheat stocks totaled 43.4 million bushels, down 21 percent from a year ago.

The quantity of wheat stored in the **Pacific Northwest** (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho), on March 1, 2008 totaled 79.4 million bushels, 22 percent lower than last year. On-farm stocks, at 7.8 million bushels, were down 8.7 million bushels from last year. Holdings off-farm were 71.6 million bushels, 16 percent below a year ago. The quantity of wheat stored in the United States totaled 709.6 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago.

Washington on-farm **barley** stocks, on March 1, 2008, totaled 630 thousand bushels, up 280 thousand from a year ago. The quantity of barley stored in the state's off-farm storages was 3.9 million bushels, an increase of 22 percent from the quantity in storage on March 1, 2007. Pacific Northwest barley stocks in all positions totaled 27.9 million bushels on March 1, 2008, a decrease of 23 percent from the quantity in storage on March 1, 2007. Nationally, barley stocks in all positions totaled 104.8 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year.

## GRAIN STOCKS: MARCH 1, 2007; DECEMBER 1, 2007 3/; & MARCH 1, 2008

Crop/ Quarter	Washington			Pacific Northwest 1/			United States		
	On-Farm	Off-Farm 2/	Total	On-Farm	Off-Farm 2/	Total	On-Farm	Off-Farm 2/	Total
	1,000 Bushels								
Wheat									
Mar. 1, 2007	5,000	55,004	60,004	16,500	85,751	102,251	192,450	664,278	856,728
Dec. 1, 2007	7,500	62,873	70,373	26,500	102,418	128,918	289,540	842,398	1,131,938
Mar. 1, 2008	2,300	43,370	45,670	7,800	71,635	79,435	91,990	617,650	709,640
Barley									
Mar. 1, 2007	350	3,211	3,561	10,600	25,679	36,279	38,310	78,756	117,066
Dec. 1, 2007	900	5,741	6,641	13,600	24,247	37,847	62,050	73,728	135,778
Mar. 1, 2008	630	3,932	4,562	5,890	22,043	27,933	28,270	76,540	104,810
Oats									
Mar. 1, 2007	*	142	*	*	580	*	33,900	37,158	71,058
Dec. 1, 2007	*	101	*	*	617	*	43,100	51,331	94,431
Mar. 1, 2008	*	71	*	*	492	*	31,000	48,038	79,038
Corn									
Mar. 1, 2007	*	7,764	*	*	12,356	*	3,330,000	2,738,250	6,068,250
Dec. 1, 2007	*	11,921	*	*	16,601	*	6,530,000	3,748,085	10,278,085
Mar. 1, 2008	*	9,430	*	*	12,037	*	3,780,000	3,078,895	6,858,895

1/ Revised.

2/ Includes Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

3/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

\* Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

## ONIONS: AREA PLANTED BY SEASON & STATE, 2006-2008

State	Area Planted			2008 as % of 2007
	2006	2007	2008	
	Acres			Percent
<b>Spring 1/ Summer (Non-Storage) 1/</b>	40,800	33,800	31,600	93.5%
California	9,800	9,700	9,000	92.8%
Nevada	2,600	2,800	2,900	1.04%
New Mexico	6,000	6,300	5,500	87.3%
Texas	1,000	1,100	800	72.7%
<b>Washington 2/</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>126.7%</b>
<b>Total Non-Storage</b>	<b>20,900</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>93.9%</b>
<b>Storage</b>				
California 3/	33,100	31,700	31,500	99.4%
Colorado	10,000	9,000	8,500	94.4%
Idaho	9,700	9,300	8,600	92.5%
Michigan	2,700	2,600	2,100	80.8%
New York	14,100	13,000	12,400	95.4%
Oregon: Malheur	11,700	11,500	9,900	86.1%
Other	8,400	9,100	8,500	93.4%
<b>Washington</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>90.5%</b>
Wisconsin	2,100	1,900	1,800	94.7%
Other States 4/	2,280	2,180	1,750	80.3%
<b>Total Storage</b>	<b>114,080</b>	<b>111,280</b>	<b>104,050</b>	<b>93.5%</b>
<b>Total Summer</b>	<b>134,980</b>	<b>132,680</b>	<b>124,150</b>	<b>93.6%</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>175,780</b>	<b>166,480</b>	<b>155,750</b>	<b>93.6%</b>

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

4/ 2006 – 2008 – OH and UT.

## ASPARAGUS (SPRING): YIELD & PRODUCTION 1/

State	Area			Yield Per Acre		Production	
	Harvested		For Harvest 2008	2006	2007	2006	2007
	2006	2007					
	Acres			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
California	22,500	20,000	16,600	23	29	518	580
Michigan	11,700	11,200	11,000	22	21	257	235
Washington	9,000	7,000	6,500	42	43	378	301
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>38,200</b>	<b>34,100</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>1,116</b>

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

## VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING: PLANTED ACREAGE

Crop & State	Planted Acres				2008 Contract as a % of 2007 Contract
	2006 Total	2007		2008 Contract Intentions 1/	
		Total	Contract 1/		
	Acres				Percent
<b>Sweet Corn</b>					
Washington	80,200	84,500	84,500	81,600	96.6%
Oregon	26,100	21,900	21,900	22,200	101.4%
<b>United States</b>	<b>394,400</b>	<b>380,100</b>	<b>380,100</b>	<b>384,960</b>	<b>101.3%</b>
<b>Green Peas</b>					
Washington	34,300	38,900	38,900	35,000	90.0%
Oregon	17,600	18,000	18,000	17,500	97.2%
<b>United States</b>	<b>211,700</b>	<b>213,800</b>	<b>213,800</b>	<b>215,900</b>	<b>101.0%</b>

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS



According to a survey conducted in the first two weeks of March 2008, Washington growers expect to plant 170,000 acres of field corn, 25,000 fewer acres than last year, according to Dave Knopf, Director of the Washington Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Good moisture in the growing areas and above average prices has made the outlook favorable for all spring crops.” Washington barley growers seeded 220,000 acres, 6 percent below last year and spring wheat growers intend to plant 600,000 acres, up 33 percent from 2007. Winter wheat planted acreage in Washington is expected to reach 1.75 million acres, 2 percent above 2007. The crop has survived the winter in good shape.

Nationwide, **field corn** growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of field corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from 2007 but 10 percent higher than 2006. Oregon growers expect the same planted acreage as last year while Idaho growers intend to plant 10,000 fewer acres.

**Winter and spring barley** acres planted in the Nation for harvest in 2008 is estimated at 4.15 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. Idaho and Oregon’s expected acreage are down 4 percent and up 3 percent, respectively. **Spring wheat seedings** in Washington are expected to total 600,000 acres, 33 percent above 2007. Spring wheat seedings in Idaho are expected to total 540,000 acres while Oregon’s acreage is expected to reach 180,000 acres. In the United States, growers intend to plant 14.3 million acres, up 8 percent from 2007. Of the total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat.

**Dry bean (including Garbanzos/Chickpeas)** acreage in Washington is expected to slip to 50,000 acres, 10,000 acres below 2007 and 11,000 acres below two years ago. Large chickpeas are estimated at 29,000 acres compared with 40,000 acres in 2007 and small chickpeas are a reported 1,000 acres, 500 acres below last year. Intended dry bean planted acreage in Idaho is 80,000 acres, and in Oregon growers are planning on seeding 6,000 acres. Area planted to **lentils** in Washington is expected to total 60,000 acres, 8,000 acres below 2007 while **dry pea** growers intend to plant 2,000 acres less than they did last year.

Area planted to **lentils** in Washington is expected to total 60,000 acres, 8,000 acres below 2007 while **dry pea** growers intend to plant 2,000 acres less than they did last year. Acres of **hay** for harvest in Washington is expected to total 750,000 acres, down 40,000 acres from 2007. Oregon’s expected hay acreage, at 1.01 million acres is up 1 percent from last year while Idaho acreage is expected to remain unchanged. Nationally, producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres, down 2 percent from 2007. Planted **oat** acreage in Washington is expected to total 20,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2007. A total of 3.42 million acres of oats is expected to be seeded by U.S. growers for the 2008 crop year. This would be down 9 percent from last year’s planted acres.

### PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS: SELECTED STATES & UNITED STATES, 2006-2008

Crop	Washington			Oregon		Idaho		United States		
	2006	2007	Ind. 2008 2/	2007	Ind. 2008 2/	2007	Ind. 2008 2/	2006	2007	Ind. 2008 2/
	<b>1,000 Acres</b>									
All Wheat 1/	2,280	2,170	2,350	875	960	1,235	1,455	57,344	60,433	63,803
Winter	1,850	1,720	1,750	750	780	750	900	40,575	44,987	46,840
Spring	430	450	600	125	180	470	540	14,899	13,297	14,333
Barley 1/	200	235	220	63	65	570	550	3,452	4,020	4,147
Oats 1/	30	30	20	60	40	70	80	4,168	3,760	3,420
Corn	140	195	170	60	60	310	300	78,327	93,600	86,014
Dry Beans 3/	61.0	60.0	50.0	8.0	6.0	90.0	80.0	1,629.8	1,526.9	1,398.5
Chickpeas (lg)	37.5	40.0	29.0	3.5	2.5	38.0	26.0	119.4	114.4	83.1
Chickpeas (sm)	3.5	1.5	1.0	-	-	3.5	2.0	17.4	11.1	15.4
Lentils	77.0	68.0	60.0	-	-	38.0	35.0	429.0	303.0	277.0
Dry Peas	67.0	67.0	65.0	5.5	5.0	25.0	30.0	925.5	847.5	820.0
Sugarbeets 4/5/	2.0	2.0	1.8	12.0	8.2	169.0	144.0	1,366.2	1,269.8	1,131.8
All Hay 6/	770	790	750	1,000	1,010	1,500	1,500	60,927	61,625	60,583

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall. Excludes durum.

2/ Intended plantings for 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.

3/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

4/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all States except CA. In CA, relates to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central CA and to year of planting for overwintered beets in central and southern CA.

5/ Intended plantings in 2008 as indicated by reports from processors.

6/ Intended area harvested in 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.

## PRICES

### AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR FARM PRODUCTS (DOLLARS/UNIT)

Commodity	Unit	Entire Month		Preliminary Mar. 2008	Entire Month		Preliminary Mar. 2008	U.S. Parity Price
		Mar. 2007	Feb. 2008		Mar. 2007	Feb. 2008		
<b>Washington</b>				<b>United States</b>				
Wheat, All	Bu.	5.18	11.00	11.20	4.75	9.98	11.70	12.50
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	5.15	9.95	10.40	4.67	8.97	11.00	-
Wheat, Durum	Bu.	-	-	-	5.32	13.50	14.50	-
Wheat, Other Spring	Bu.	5.29	14.00	13.40	4.73	11.10	12.50	-
Barley	Bu.	3.63	5.32	5.33	3.11	4.39	4.75	8.61
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	3.43	4.53	4.83	7.89
Oats	Bu.	-	-	-	2.40	3.20	3.38	5.13
Lentils	Cwt.	-	-	-	12.10	29.00	31.20	-
Chickpeas, All	Cwt.	-	-	-	27.40	30.20	33.40	-
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	-	-	-	25.70	32.20	32.20	63.40
Dry Edible Peas	Cwt.	-	-	-	8.33	16.40	18.10	-
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	7.10	8.20	7.55	7.93	7.51	7.82	19.40
Potatoes, Processing	Cwt.	6.45	6.50	-	6.36	6.25	-	-
Hay, All (baled) 1/	Tons	128.00	161.00	163.00	119.00	133.00	139.00	-
Alfalfa (baled) 1/	Tons	125.00	160.00	160.00	121.00	138.00	143.00	-
Other Hay (baled) 1/	Tons	135.00	165.00	170.00	115.00	122.00	128.00	-
Hops	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.16
Apples, Fresh 2/	Lbs.	0.287	0.354	0.348	0.292	0.347	0.344	0.749
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	-	-	-	91.60	89.00	88.70	239.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	-	-	-	97.70	94.20	93.80	-
Calves	Cwt.	-	-	-	122.00	120.00	120.00	346.00
Milk Cows 3/	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broilers, Live 4/	Lbs.	-	-	-	0.500	0.500	0.510	-
Eggs, Market 1/ 5/	Doz.	0.780	1.350	1.430	0.681	1.220	1.300	2.08
Milk, All Wholesale 6/ 7/	Cwt.	15.10	18.20	17.20	15.60	19.10	18.30	45.60
Hogs, All	Cwt.	-	-	-	44.90	42.20	41.20	131.00
Sheep	Cwt.	-	-	-	36.60	29.90	-	109.00
Lambs	Cwt.	-	-	-	95.50	96.80	-	272.00

1/ Mid-month price.

2/ Equivalent packinghouse door returns for apples for CA, MI, NY, and WA. Prices as sold for other states.

3/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for January, April, July, and October.

4/ Equivalent liveweight price.

5/ Also referred to as table eggs.

6/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

7/ March 2008 Fat test percent: all milk, 3.74.

