



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Posted online April 1, 2008

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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2008

OLYMPIA, Wash., April 1, 2008—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.

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.

Area planted to **sugarbeet** acres in Washington is expected to be down 200 acres from 2007, at 1,800 acres. Nationwide, the 2008 crop is expected to total 1.13 million acres, 11 percent lower than the 2007 planted acreage.

Surveys and Estimates: These estimates are the results of the **March 2008 Agricultural Survey** conducted during the first two weeks of March 2008. These prospective planting estimates can and do change based on conditions at planting time. If growers continue to receive moisture, producers may decide to plant more spring crops. Our June Acreage survey will measure actual plantings. These estimates will be updated with the June Acreage Survey results which will be released on June 30, 2008. The first estimate of winter wheat production will be published on May 9, 2008, and the first estimate of spring wheat and barley production will be published on July 11, 2008.

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/
	1,000 Acres									
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.

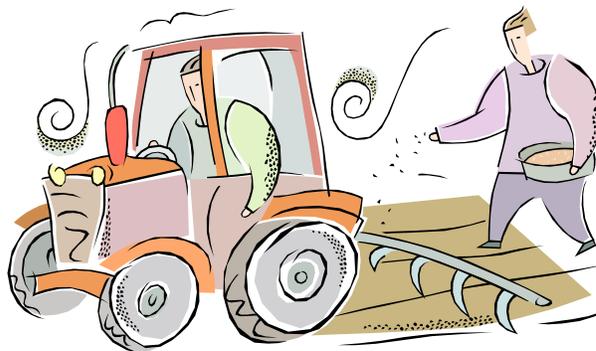
2/ Intended plantings for 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.

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.



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