



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Washington's 2008 Winter Wheat Yields Lowest Since 2002 Alfalfa Hay Production Lowest Since 1973 Hop Production Highest Since 1981

Olympia – The August 1 forecast for the 2008 winter wheat crop in Washington is 59.0 bushels per acre, 3 bushels below the July 1 forecast and 5 bushels below the final 2007 yield. Estimates in the *Crop Production* report released today by the Washington Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) were based on conditions as of August 1. “As of August 1, harvest stood at 42 percent complete compared with a five year average of 52 percent. Cutting was complete or moving rapidly in mature areas whereas other areas had not started,” stated David Knopf, Director of the Washington Field Office.

As of August 1, only 37 percent of Washington's dryland **winter wheat** was rated good or better. If realized, total production, at 104.4 million bushels, will be 3 percent below 2007. An increase of 80,000 harvested acres from 2007 was not enough to offset the 5 bushel reduction in yield from 2007.

Spring wheat cutting was pegged at only 10 percent complete on August 1 compared with an average 30 percent in 2007 and a five year average of 26 percent. Only 12 percent of the crop was rated as being in good or better condition on August 1. Production is forecast at 22.8 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 37 bushels per acre. Acres for harvest totaled 615,000 acres, 38 percent above 2007. If realized, this would be the lowest yield since 1981.

The condition of the **barley** crop was rated mostly fair to good. With combining 15 percent completed on August 1, the pace was about half the 2007 crop. Yields are expected to average 58.0 bushels per acre, 2 bushels below last year. With 195,000 acres for harvest, production is expected to reach 11.3 million bushels, 16 percent below last year.

Alfalfa hay acreage for harvest was estimated at 380,000 acres as of August 1, 60,000 acres below last year. This is the lowest acreage of alfalfa hay harvested since 1953. With an average yield of 4.60 tons per acre, production was forecast at 1.75 million tons, 26 percent below last year and the lowest level since 1973. **Other hay** acreage for harvest was pegged at 330,000 acres, 20,000 acres below last year. Yields are expected to average 2.70 tons per acre with production reaching 891,000 tons, 18 percent below the 2007 crop.

Dry edible beans were in mostly good condition, with an average yield set at 1,700 pounds (clean basis) per acre. Acreage for harvest, at 50,000 acres, was down 10,000 acres from 2007. Large Garbanzos continue to be the leading variety, although they dropped from 40,000 acres in 2007 to 31,000 acres for this crop year. Production for all classes for dry beans is forecast at 850,000 cwt. 17 percent below last year's 1.02 million cwt.

Hop production was estimated at 59.4 million pounds from 29,401 acres. Average yield was forecast at 2,020 pounds compared with 2,049 in 2007. This is the highest level of production since 1981. **Corn for grain** production was forecast at 16.8 million bushels from 80,000 acres with an average 210.0 bushels per acre, well above the U. S. average of 155.0 bushels per acre. Washington's **sugarbeet** production was forecast at 64,000 tons from 1,600 acres.

Nationally, winter wheat is forecast at 1.87 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the July forecast and up 24 percent from 2007. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 46.6 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and 4.4 bushels above last year. Expected grain area totals 40.3 million acres, up 12 percent from last year but unchanged from last month. Harvest in the 18 major production states was 86 percent complete by August 3. This was 7 percent behind last year and 6 percent behind the five year average.



FIELD CROP SUMMARY, AUGUST 1, 2008

CROP	WASHINGTON						PACIFIC NW 1/		UNITED STATES		
	Area Harvested		Unit	Yield		Production		Production		Production	
	2007	2008		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres				1,000		1,000		1,000		
All Wheat	2,137	2,385	Bu.	60.2	53.3	128,722	127,185	257,937	270,625	1,995,036	2,375,845
Winter Wheat	1,690	1,770	Bu.	64.0	59.0	108,160	104,430	200,415	205,910	1,515,989	1,874,857
Spring Wheat	447	615	Bu.	46.0	37.0	20,562	22,755	57,522	64,715	479,047	500,988
Barley	225	195	Bu.	60.0	58.0	13,500	11,310	59,991	55,475	211,825	217,976
Corn, Grain	120	80	Bu.	210	210	25,200	16,800	2/	2/	13,073,893	12,287,875
Hops	22.75	29.40	Lbs.	2,049	2,020	46,605.4	59,390.0	60,253.1	76,234.4	60,253.1	76,234.4
Sugarbeets	2.0	1.6	Tons	42.0	40.0	84	64	6,180	3,717	31,912	25,319
All Hay	790	710	Tons	4.4	3.7	3,461	2,639	11,851	11,706	150,304	147,955
Alfalfa Hay	440	380	Tons	5.4	4.6	2,376	1,748	8,816	8,581	72,575	70,944
Other Hay	350	330	Tons	3.1	2.7	1,085	891	3,035	3,125	77,729	77,011
Dry Beans	60.0	50.0	Cwt.	17.0	17.0	1,020	850	2,768	2,456	25,371	24,172
Potatoes, Fall	165	155	Cwt.	620	3/	102,300	3/	254,188	3/	409,082	3/

1/ Includes Oregon, Idaho, and Washington.

2/ Individual state level estimates will be published in the "Crop Production 2008 Summary."

3/ First production forecast November 10, 2008.

Winter Wheat Harvested Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2006-2008

State	Area Harvested		Yield				Production		
	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008		2006	2007	2008
					Jul 1	Aug 1			
	1,000 Acres		Bushels				1,000 Bushels		
Washington	1,690	1,770	66	64	62	59	118,800	108,160	104,430
Oregon	735	770	53	55	60	55	38,690	40,425	42,350
Idaho	710	810	77	73	73	73	54,670	51,830	59,130
Pacific NW	3,135	3,350	65.5	63.9	64.2	61.5	212,160	200,415	205,910
Kansas	8,600	9,400	32	33	39	39	291,200	283,800	366,600
Oklahoma	3,500	4,500	24	28	38	38	81,600	98,000	171,000
Montana	2,190	2,450	43	38	37	39	82,560	83,220	95,550
Nebraska	1,960	1,700	36	43	42	44	61,200	84,280	74,800
Colorado	2,350	2,000	21	40	28	29	39,900	94,000	58,000
Texas	3,800	3,500	24	37	30	30	33,600	140,600	105,000
Ohio	730	1,050	68	63	67	68	65,280	45,990	71,400
10 States	26,265	27,950	36.7	39.2	41.0	41.1	867,500	1,030,305	1,148,260
U.S. Total	35,952	40,252	41.7	42.2	46.3	46.6	1,298,081	1,515,989	1,874,857

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2004-2008 1/ 2/

Year	Winter					Spring					Total
	Hard Red	Soft Red	Hard White 2/	Soft White 2/	All White	Hard Red	Hard White 2/	Soft White 2/	All White	Durum	
	1,000 Bushels										
2004	856,211	380,305			262,918	525,467			43,451	89,893	2,158,245
2005	929,820	309,021	25,279	235,009	260,288	466,587	4,530	33,339	37,869	101,105	2,104,690
2006	682,079	390,165	13,284	212,553	225,837	432,339	6,226	21,915	28,141	53,475	1,812,036
2007	961,588	357,897	21,460	175,044	196,504	448,904	5,589	24,554	30,143	71,686	2,066,722
2008	1,055,243	608,726	23,571	187,317	210,888	466,220	6,115	28,653	34,768	86,573	2,462,418

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on the latest available data including both survey and administrative data. The previous end-of-season class percentages are used throughout the forecast season for States that do not have survey or administrative data available.

2/ Individual Hard White and Soft White estimates not available prior to 2005.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/wwhaug.pdf>

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