



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Washington Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507

Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov/



Posted online May 10, 2012

Contact: David Knopf (360)709-2400

nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

U. S. Winter Wheat Production Up 13 Percent from 2011 White Winter Wheat Production Down 9 Percent

OLYMPIA, Wash., May 10, 2012 –U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.69 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 2011. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 35.6 million acres, up 10 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 47.6 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from the previous year.

In Washington, production is forecast to reach 115.2 million bushels, down 11 percent from 2011 and 2 percent below the 2010 crop year. Yields are expected to average 69.0 bushels per acre, down 6 bushels from last year. Growers planted an estimated 1.70 million acres in the fall of 2011 and are forecast to harvest 1.67 million acres this summer, 60,000 acres less than last year.

“As of May 1, 2012, the maturity of the crop is slightly behind normal due to cooler temperatures. Similar to last year, the crop looks good with abundant soil moisture present,” said David Knopf, Director of NASS’ Washington Field Office.

Idaho growers expect to harvest 730,000 acres, 40,000 less than last year. Yields are expected to average 85.0 bushels per acre, resulting in a production of 62.1 million bushels, 2 percent below 2011. In Oregon, production is an indicated 55.8 million bushels from 775,000 acres. Yields are estimated at 72.0 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels per acre lower than last year.

U.S. White Winter wheat production is down 9 percent from last year and totals 233 million bushels. Of this total, 14.1 million bushels are Hard White and 219 million bushels are Soft White. U.S. Hard Red Winter, at 1.03 billion bushels, is up 32 percent from 2011. Soft Red Winter, at 428 million bushels, is down 6 percent from last year.

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2010-2011 & Forecasted May 1, 2012 1/

Year	Winter					Spring					Total
	Hard Red	Soft Red	Hard White	Soft White	All White	Hard Red	Hard White	Soft White	All White	Durum	
	1,000 Bushels										
2010	1,018,377	237,804	13,496	215,599	229,095	569,975	9,256	36,744	46,000	107,180	2,208,391
2011	780,089	457,535	12,368	243,685	256,053	397,689	11,878	45,621	57,499	50,482	1,999,347
2012	1,032,252	428,263	14,060	219,135	233,195						

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on the latest available data including both surveys and administration 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. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun.

Winter Wheat: Planted, Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, 2011 & Forecasted May 1, 2012

State	Planted	Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres		Bushel/Acre		1,000 Bushels	
Washington	1,700	1,730	1,670	75.0	69.0	129,750	115,230
Idaho	780	770	730	82.0	85.0	63,140	62,050
Oregon	790	825	775	77.0	72.0	63,525	55,800
Pacific NW	3,270	3,325	3,175	77.1	73.4	256,415	233,080
Colorado	2,400	2,000	2,250	39.0	41.0	78,000	92,250
Kansas	9,500	7,900	9,000	35.0	43.0	276,500	387,000
Montana	2,200	2,190	2,120	41.0	40.0	89,790	84,800
Nebraska	1,350	1,450	1,270	45.0	47.0	65,250	59,690
Oklahoma	5,400	3,200	4,300	22.0	36.0	70,400	154,800
South Dakota	1,350	1,590	1,300	42.0	44.0	66,780	57,200
Texas	5,800	1,900	3,350	26.0	31.0	49,400	103,850
10 States	31,270	23,555	26,765	40.4	43.8	952,535	1,172,670
U.S. Total	41,709	32,314	35,580	46.2	47.6	1,493,677	1,693,710

The combination of a mild winter and spring, paired with timely precipitation, resulted in beneficial growing conditions in the Great Plains States. Precipitation this spring not only aided the winter wheat crop, but also improved pasture and hay fields, leading cattle producers to harvest wheat acreage for grain instead of hay. Current crop conditions have improved from last year in all major Hard Red Winter (HRW) producing states except Montana and South Dakota. As of May 1, the percent of crop rated good to excellent in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas was 27 points or more higher than last year, contributing to forecasted yield increases for those States.

Warmer temperatures and adequate moisture in the Pacific Northwest left growers optimistic after a predominantly cool start to the spring growing season. As of May 1, crop conditions reported as good to excellent were unchanged in Idaho, down 8 points in Oregon, while up 18 points in Washington compared to last year.



To access the entire release electronically, containing the complete narrative and tables, point to:
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Current_News_Release/wwhtmay.pdf

Find agricultural statistics for Washington State at www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/