



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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U. S. Winter Wheat Production Up 17 Percent from 2007 Soft Red Production Up 54 Percent

OLYMPIA, Wash., May 9, 2008 – Winter wheat production in the U.S. in 2008 is forecast at 1.78 billion bushels, up 17 percent from 2007. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 40.2 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. Based on May 1, 2008 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.3 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year.

In Washington, production is expected to reach 108.4 million bushels, up slightly from 2007 but down from the 118.8 million bushels harvested two years ago. Yields are expected to average 63.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from the last crop year. Growers planted an estimated 1.75 million acres in the fall of 2007 and are forecast to harvest 1.72 million acres this summer.

“As of May 1, 2008, development of the crop is behind previous years’ and more moisture is needed in many areas,” said David Knopf, Director of NASS’ Washington Field Office.

Idaho growers expect to harvest 840,000 acres, 130,000 more than last year. Yields are expected to average 72.0 bushels per acre, resulting in a production of 60.5 million bushels, 17 percent above 2007. In Oregon, production is an indicated 45.6 million bushels from 760,000 acres. Yields are estimated at 5.0 bushels per acre above last year, at 60.0 bushels per acre. In the Pacific Northwest, wheat condition is rated mostly fair to good with soil moisture in mostly adequate supply. A cold spring has significantly delayed crop development.

In the U.S. Hard Red production is up 5 percent from a year ago to 1.01 billion bushels. Soft Red production is up 54 percent and totals 551 million bushels. White production totals 215 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 23.2 million bushels are Hard White and 192 million bushels are Soft White. Hard Red Winter harvested acreage expectations in the central and southern Great Plains are above last year’s freeze and flood reduced levels, mainly due to Kansas and Oklahoma acreage which is expected to be up 9 percent and 29 percent, respectively.

Washington’s May 1, 2008 Hay Stocks Lowest Since 2001

The quantity of hay stored on Washington farms on May 1, 2008 totaled 208,000 tons, compared with 240,000 tons in 2007 and 250,000 tons in 2006. This is the lowest level since 170,000 tons was stored on May 1, 2001.

Idaho reported 300,000 tons of hay stored on May 1, 2008, down 6 percent from 2007 and 20 percent below two years ago. Oregon’s hay stocks stood at 150,000 tons compared with 180,000 tons last year and 210,000 tons in 2006.

The combined Pacific Northwest stocks totaled 658,000 tons on May 1, 2008. Nationally, all hay stored on farms totaled 21.6 million tons, up 44 percent from the previous year. Hay stocks increased significantly in Texas and Oklahoma where weather conditions during the 2007 growing season nearly doubled hay production and improved pasture conditions throughout the year.

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, 2007 & Forecasted May 1, 2008

State	Planted	Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres		Bushel/Acre		1,000 Bushels	
Washington	1,750	1,690	1,720	64.0	63.0	108,160	108,360
Idaho	900	710	840	73.0	72.0	51,830	60,480
Oregon	780	735	760	55.0	60.0	40,425	45,600
Pacific NW	3,430	3,135	3,320	63.9	64.6	200,415	214,440
Kansas	9,900	8,600	9,400	33.0	38.0	283,800	357,200
Oklahoma	5,700	3,500	4,500	28.0	33.0	98,000	148,500
Texas	6,000	3,800	3,400	37.0	29.0	140,600	98,600
Nebraska	1,950	1,960	1,850	43.0	44.0	84,280	81,400
Ohio	1,020	730	1,000	63.0	64.0	45,990	64,000
Colorado	2,400	2,350	2,100	40.0	32.0	94,000	67,200
Montana	2,700	2,190	2,600	38.0	34.0	83,220	88,400
10 States	33,100	26,265	28,170	39.2	39.7	1,030,305	1,119,740
U.S. Total	46,840	35,952	40,162	42.2	44.3	1,515,989	1,777,532



Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2006-2007 & Forecasted May 1, 2008 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										
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	1,011,255	550,826	23,172	192,279	215,451						

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on the latest available data including both survey 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.

To access the entire release, the complete narrative and tables, point to:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Current_News_Release/prosplnt.pdf

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