



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250
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Posted online January 11, 2008

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Washington's 2008 Winter Wheat Seedings Up 2 Percent from Last Year U. S. Planted Acres Up 4 Percent; Soft Red Winter Acres Jumps 21 Percent

OLYMPIA, Wash., January 11, 2008 -- Washington winter wheat growers seeded an estimated 1.75 million acres of winter wheat for harvest in 2008. This is 2 percent above the 2007 crop but 5 percent below the 2006 crop. Nationally, planted area for harvest in 2008 is estimated at 46.6 million acres, up 4 percent from 2007. Winter wheat seeded in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon and Idaho) totaled 3.43 million acres, 7 percent above the 2007 crop. Idaho growers seeded 900,000 acres, 20 percent more than they did in each of the last two years and the highest since 1997's 910,000 acres. Oregon farmers planted 780,000 acres, 4 percent more than last year. Seeding began ahead of normal in all three States with some concerns about moisture supplies in Washington going into the winter months. By the first week of November, virtually all fields had been seeded in the region with 89 percent of the acres emerged in Washington, 76 percent in Idaho, and 60 percent in Oregon.

Seeding in the U. S. began last August - behind the 5-year average pace and remained behind until mid-November due to a lack of moisture in the Great Plains during much of the seeding period. Nearly all the U. S. acreage was seeded by December 1 with the exception of some intended acres in the Southeast and California. Seeding was completed by the end of December in California. The winter wheat crop condition at the end of November was rated at 44 percent good to excellent compared with 53 percent the previous year.

Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is about 32.5 million acres, down 1 percent from 2007. **Soft Red Winter (SRW)** area, at about 10.5 million acres, is up 21 percent from last year. Large acreage increases from last year occurred in all SRW growing States due largely to strong prices and ideal planting and germination conditions. **White Winter** wheat seeded area totals nearly 3.65 million acres, up 7 percent from 2007.

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

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



Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, By State & United States, 2006-2008

| State | Crop Year | | | 2008/2007 |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | |
| | 1,000 Acres | | | Percent |
| Alabama | 100 | 120 | 170 | 142 |
| Arizona | 4 | 6 | 10 | 167 |
| Arkansas | 365 | 820 | 870 | 106 |
| California | 450 | 500 | 600 | 120 |
| Colorado | 2,150 | 2,500 | 2,400 | 96 |
| Delaware | 48 | 57 | 80 | 140 |
| Florida | 8 | 13 | 18 | 138 |
| Georgia | 230 | 360 | 480 | 133 |
| Idaho | 750 | 750 | 900 | 120 |
| Illinois | 930 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 120 |
| Indiana | 470 | 420 | 550 | 131 |
| Iowa | 25 | 35 | 50 | 143 |
| Kansas | 9,800 | 10,400 | 9,900 | 95 |
| Kentucky | 430 | 440 | 530 | 120 |
| Louisiana | 115 | 235 | 400 | 170 |
| Maryland | 210 | 220 | 250 | 114 |
| Michigan | 660 | 560 | 780 | 139 |
| Minnesota | 50 | 65 | 70 | 108 |
| Mississippi | 85 | 370 | 400 | 108 |
| Missouri | 1,000 | 1,050 | 1,200 | 114 |
| Montana | 1,950 | 2,240 | 2,700 | 121 |
| Nebraska | 1,800 | 2,050 | 1,950 | 95 |
| Nevada | 17 | 17 | 11 | 65 |
| New Jersey | 25 | 31 | 34 | 110 |
| New Mexico | 440 | 490 | 480 | 98 |
| New York | 105 | 100 | 125 | 125 |
| North Carolina | 560 | 630 | 800 | 127 |
| North Dakota | 200 | 465 | 650 | 140 |
| Ohio | 990 | 820 | 1,020 | 124 |
| Oklahoma | 5,700 | 5,900 | 5,700 | 97 |
| Oregon | 760 | 750 | 780 | 104 |
| Pennsylvania | 160 | 170 | 180 | 106 |
| South Carolina | 130 | 160 | 170 | 106 |
| South Dakota | 1,450 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 90 |
| Tennessee | 280 | 420 | 620 | 148 |
| Texas | 5,550 | 6,200 | 6,000 | 97 |
| Utah | 130 | 135 | 130 | 96 |
| Virginia | 190 | 230 | 280 | 122 |
| Washington | 1,850 | 1,720 | 1,750 | 102 |
| West Virginia | 8 | 8 | 12 | 150 |
| Wisconsin | 250 | 290 | 330 | 114 |
| Wyoming | 150 | 140 | 130 | 93 |
| United States | 40,575 | 44,987 | 46,610 | 104 |