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News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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MAY CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - On farm hay stocks, as of May 1, 2008, totaled 92,000 tons. This is 44,000 tons less than what was on hand last year at this time, and 122,000 tons below May 1 stocks on hand in 2006. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2007 - May 1, 2008, was 628,000 tons, 8 percent less than the 2006 crop disappearance of 680,000 tons for the same period.

UNITED STATES - Winter wheat production 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 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.3 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year.

All on farm hay stocks on May 1, 2008 totaled 21.6 million tons, up 44 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2007- May 1, 2008 totaled 82.4 million tons, 1 percent more than the disappearance of 81.5 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Hay stocks increased from last year throughout the entire Great Plains, the Delta, most of the Southeast, and the Rocky Mountain States. 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.

Lower 2007 hay production in most States east of the Mississippi River, except in the Southeast, held May 1, 2008 hay stocks below a year ago. The largest declines occurred in Kentucky, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. In Kentucky and Tennessee where stocks are less than half of the previous year, production was down due to the April 2007 freeze and dry summer weather, so some producers resorted to hauling hay in from other States. Wisconsin's May 1 hay stocks are at a record low level while Tennessee recorded the lowest May 1 hay stock level since 1962.