

Wisconsin Hay Stocks Down Sharply

Stocks of all dry hay stored on Wisconsin farms totaled 790,000 tons on May 1, 2008, a 40 percent drop from the 1.31 million tons stored on May 1, 2007. Hay stocks are the lowest since the May 1 inventory began in 1950. Extreme snowfall and persistent snow cover contributed to the rapid decline in stocks. During the period December 1, 2007-May 1, 2008, the state's livestock and dairy producers fed 2.68 million tons of hay compared to 2.27 million tons during the same time period a year earlier.

Nationally, all hay stored on farms 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 time period a year ago.

Hay stocks increased from last year throughout the Great Plains, the Delta, most of the Southeast, and the Rocky Mountain States. 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. Tennessee recorded the lowest May hay stock level since 1962.

Hay Stocks on Farms, May 1

State	2006	2007	2008
1,000 tons			
WI	1,135	1,308	790
IL	324	325	210
IA	1,000	684	640
KS	800	600	1,100
MI	395	350	320
MN	1,150	740	535
MO	873	625	900
MT	1,463	760	1,025
NE	1,070	863	1,010
ND	1,806	609	1,260
SD	2,140	1,150	1,930
US	21,345	15,013	21,593

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO