

2009 Crop Planting Intentions

As of March 1, U.S. corn growers reported they intend to plant 85.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, down 1 percent from last year, as lower corn prices and unstable input costs are discouraging some growers from planting corn. If realized, this will be the second consecutive year-over-year decrease since 2007, but will still be the third largest acreage since 1949, behind 2007 and 2008. Expected acreage is down from last year in many states. However, producers in the 10 major corn producing states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) collectively intend to plant 66.3 million acres, up slightly from the 66.1 million acres planted last year.

Corn planting intentions in Wisconsin as of March 1, were 3.75 million acres. If realized this would be a decrease of 50,000 acres from last year, and 300,000 acres below 2007.

Soybean producers in the U.S. intend to plant 76.0 million acres in 2009, up slightly from last year. If realized, the U.S. planted area would be the largest on record. Acreage increases of 100,000 acres or more are expected in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Ohio. The largest decreases are expected in Missouri and South Dakota. Both states plan on planting 150,000 fewer acres than in 2008. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas and New York will be the largest on record, and the planted acreage in North Dakota will tie the previous record high.

Soybean planting intentions in Wisconsin are 1.64 million acres, a 2 percent increase from last year, and 17 percent above 2007. If realized, this would be the state's third highest soybean acreage on record, behind 2006 (1.65 million acres), and 2003 (1.72 million acres).

Nationally, all wheat planted area is estimated at 58.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 2008. The 2009 winter wheat planted area, at 42.9 million acres, is 7 percent below last year but up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.38 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.65 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2009 is expected to total 13.3 million acres, down 6 percent from 2008. Of this total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The expected Durum planted area for 2009 is 2.45 million acres, down 10 percent from the previous year.

Wisconsin's winter wheat estimate is for 9 percent fewer acres in 2009 than last year. The state's forecast is 320,000 acres, 30,000 below last year, but 30,000 above 2007.

Wisconsin oat and barley planting intentions for 2009 are both down from last year. Oat planting intentions are 260,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from both last year and 2007. Barley plantings are forecast at 40,000 acres, down 3,000 from last year. Nationally, oat intentions are up 6 percent, while barley plantings are expected to be 7 percent lower than last year.

The state's producers intend to harvest 2.00 million acres of hay for dry hay, an increase of 5 percent from last year. Nationally, hay acres for dry hay harvest are up less than one percent from last year, and are expected to be 60.3 million acres.

Planted Acreage for 2007, 2008, and Prospective March 2009

Crop	2007	2008	2009	2009/08
	Thousand acres			Percent
WISCONSIN				
Corn, all	4,050	3,800	3,750	-1
Soybeans	1,400	1,610	1,640	+2
Oats	270	270	260	-4
Barley	40	43	40	-7
Winter wheat	290	350	320	-9
Spring wheat 2/	9	23	-	-
Hay, all 1/	1,970	1,900	2,000	+5
Dry edible beans	6.1	6.5	5.6	-14
UNITED STATES				
Corn, all	93,527	85,982	84,986	-1
Soybeans	64,741	75,718	76,024	n.c.
Oats	3,763	3,217	3,400	+6
Barley	4,018	4,234	3,953	-7
Winter wheat	45,012	46,281	42,889	-7
Spring wheat	13,292	14,135	13,304	-6
Hay, all 1/	61,006	60,062	60,297	n.c.
Dry edible beans	1,527	1,495	1,546	+3
Rice	2,761	2,995	3,183	+6
Canola	1,176	1,011	857	-15
Peanuts	1,230	1,534	1,124	-27
Sunflowers	2,070	2,517	2,070	-18
Flaxseed	354	354	386	+9
Cotton	10,827	9,470	8,812	-7

1/Area harvested. 2/Spring wheat estimates discontinued for WI in 2009.
Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO