

Production Up for Small Grains in Wisconsin

All wheat production in Wisconsin for 2008 was the highest it has been since 1879 at 23.0 million bushels, an increase of 22 percent from 2007. Wisconsin also saw the highest number of all wheat acres planted since 1919, with 373,000 acres planted and 357,000 acres harvested. Planted acres were up 74,000, while harvested acres were up 79,000 from the previous year. The all wheat yield for 2008 was 64.5 bushels per acre, down 5 percent from last year. Wisconsin winter wheat production in 2008 was 22.1 million bushels, up 19 percent from 2007. Winter wheat acres planted increased 60,000 from the previous year to 350,000 acres, while harvested acres increased 65,000 to 335,000 acres. The 2008 winter wheat yield of 66 bushels per acre was down 3 bushels from 2007. Statewide, 94 percent of winter wheat harvesting was complete on August 17, above the 5-year average of 92 percent. Growers saw minimal winterkill this year.

Nationally, all wheat production was 2.50 billion bushels, a rise of 21 percent from the previous year. There were 63.0 million wheat acres planted and 55.7 million acres harvested during the 2008 growing season. Planted acres increased 2.6 million acres, while harvested acres increased 4.7 million acres from 2007. All wheat yielded 44.9 bushels per acre, a 4.4 bushel increase from the previous year. Winter wheat production rose 23 percent, with 1.87 billion bushels harvested. Planted acres were up 3 percent to 46.2 million acres, and harvested acres increased 10 percent to 39.6 million acres. Winter wheat yielded 47.2 bushels per acre this growing season, 5 bushels above the previous year.

Planted oat acres in Wisconsin remained unchanged from the previous year at 270,000 acres. There were 190,000 acres harvested, an increase of 30,000 acres from the previous year. Oats in 2008 yielded 62.0 bushels per acre, a decrease of 5 bushels from the previous year. Production was up 10 percent to a total of 11.8 million bushels. Wisconsin was the second highest producing state for oats this year after being third in 2007.

U.S. oat production totaled 88.6 million bushels. This is 3.0 million bushels below last year and is a record low. Acres planted declined 14 percent to 3.22 million acres, while acres harvested were down 7 percent to 1.40 million acres. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record. Oats yielded 63.5 bushels per acre nationally, up 2.6 bushels from 2007. Most states throughout the Great Plains and central Rocky Mountains saw increased yields this year. Yields were up in the central and southern Great Plains, Pacific Northwest, and most States in the eastern half of the country.

Wisconsin produced 1.62 million bushels of barley in 2008, a 24 percent jump from the previous year. Area planted to barley increased 3,000 acres from 2007 to 43,000 acres. Area harvested rose 7,000 acres to 30,000 acres in 2008. Yields decreased 3 bushels from the previous year to 54 bushels per acre.

At the national level, barley production increased 13 percent from 2007 to 239 million bushels. There were 4.23 million acres planted to barley in the U.S., an increase of 214,000 acres from 2007. Harvested acres climbed 259,000 acres to 3.77 million acres. Harvested acres and production were up in North Dakota, Idaho, and Montana, the three highest producing states. Nationally, barley yielded 63.6 bushels per acre, a 3.2 bushel per acre increase from the previous year.

