



Immediate Release

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U.S. CORN PLANTED ACREAGE LARGEST SINCE 1937

WYOMING: As of March 1, Wyoming farmers planted or intended to plant 423,700 acres of small grains and row crops last fall and this spring, down 1 percent from last year, according to Steve Gunn with the Wyoming Field Office of USDA NASS. Sugarbeets and barley were down from last year and intentions for corn, oats and winter wheat were unchanged from last year. Planting intentions for dry edible beans were up. Harvest intentions for all hay area for harvest increased 12 percent from last year's crop.

Small Grains: Wyoming's 2012 **barley** acreage is expected to total 70,000 acres, down 7 percent from last year, and 5,000 acres below the 2010 crop. Farmers intend to plant 30,000 acres of **oats**, equal to the acres from last year and down 4,000 acres from 2010. **Winter wheat** was seeded on 150,000 acres last fall, unchanged from the 2011 crop, and down 15,000 acres from the 2010 crop.

Row Crops: Wyoming farmers expect to plant 105,000 acres of **corn** this year, unchanged from 2011 and up 15,000 from 2010. Producers intend to plant 30,700 acres of **sugarbeets**, down 2 percent from last year and 1 percent below 2010. **Dry bean** plantings this year are expected to total 38,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from 2011 but down 11,000 acres from 2010.

The total acreage of **all hay** expected to be harvested in the State in 2012 is 1.25 million acres, up 130,000 acres from 2011 and 60,000 acres above the 2010 crop.

These estimates are based on a survey conducted in early March. Actual plantings may vary from these estimates because of weather, economic conditions, and the effect of this report itself.

UNITED STATES: All wheat planted area is estimated at 55.9 million acres, up 3 percent from 2011. The 2012 winter wheat planted area, at 41.7 million acres, is up 3 percent from last year but down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 29.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.4 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.5 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to **other spring wheat** for 2012 is estimated at 12.0 million acres, down 3 percent from 2011. Of this total, about 11.3 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Durum planted area for 2012 is estimated at 2.22 million acres, up 62 percent from the previous year.

Barley producers intend to seed 3.33 million acres of barley for the 2012 crop year, up 30 percent from last year's record low. If realized, this will be the third smallest seeded area on record, despite the large increase from last year. Area seeded to **oats** for the 2012 crop year is expected to total 2.86 million acres, up 15 percent from the record low planted last year. If realized, this will still be the second lowest United States total on record. Area seeded to oats is expected to increase or remain unchanged in all but 3 of the 31 estimating States. Record low acreage is expected in Arkansas, Illinois, New York, Virginia, and Wyoming.

Growers intend to plant 1.67 million acres of **dry beans** in 2012, up 38 percent from last year, but 13 percent below 2010. Area planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2012 crop year is expected to total 1.24 million acres, up 1 percent from the 1.23 million acres planted in 2011. Planted area is expected to increase from the previous year in six of the ten estimating States.

Corn growers intend to plant 95.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2012, up 4 percent from last year and 9 percent higher than in 2010. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 1937 when an estimated 97.2 million acres were planted.

Hay producers intend to harvest 57.3 million acres of all hay in 2012, up 3 percent from last year's record low. If realized, this will be the second smallest harvested area on record. Producers in several States – Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania – intend to harvest record low acreages. Producers in Illinois expect to harvest a record-tying low acreage. Generally, all hay harvested acreage east of the Mississippi River is expected to decrease in 2012. Conversely, producers from the Great Plains westward intend to harvest more hay this season following the unusually dry conditions that limited hay production in 2011.

**PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 2012 AND ACTUAL PLANTINGS FOR 2011,
WYOMING AND UNITED STATES**

| Crops | Acreage Planted/to be Planted | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|--------------------|---------|
| | Wyoming | | | United States | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 Intentions | 12/11 | 2011 | 2012 Intentions | 12/11 |
| | 1,000 Acres | | Percent | 1,000 Acres | | Percent |
| Corn, All Purposes | 105 | 105 | 100 | 91,921 | 95,864 | 104 |
| Winter Wheat | 150 | 150 | 100 | 40,646 | 41,709 | 103 |
| Durum Wheat | — | — | — | 1,369 | 2,223 | 162 |
| Spring Wheat Other than Durum | — | — | — | 12,394 | 11,976 | 97 |
| Oats | 30 | 30 | 100 | 2,496 | 2,863 | 115 |
| Barley | 75 | 70 | 93 | 2,559 | 3,333 | 130 |
| Sugarbeets | 31.2 | 30.7 | 98 | 1,232.8 | 1,241.3 | 101 |
| Dry Edible Beans | 35.0 | 38.0 | 109 | 1,205.9 | 1,669.9 | 138 |
| Hay, All 1/ | 1,120 | 1,250 | 112 | 55,633 | 57,348 | 103 |

1/ Area for harvest