



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Immediate Release

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January 11, 2008

U.S. WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS UP 4 PERCENT; WYOMING DOWN 7 PERCENT

Wyoming farmers seeded an estimated 130,000 acres of **winter wheat** for harvest in 2008, according to Carrie White with the Wyoming Field Office of USDA NASS. This is a 7 percent decrease from 2007 and a 13 percent decrease from the 2006 crop.

Nationally, winter wheat seeded area for 2008 is expected to total 46.6 million acres, up 4 percent from 2007. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 32.5 million; Soft Red Winter, 10.5 million; and White Winter, 3.7 million.

U.S. HAY STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT; WYOMING UP 19 PERCENT

Wyoming farms and ranches had 1.90 million tons of hay on hand on December 1, 2007. This was up 19 percent from December 1, 2006, and up only 1 percent from 2005. This was the largest amount of hay on hand since 2003. Hay production for 2007 totaled 2.39 million tons, up 13 percent from 2006. Disappearance of hay from May 2007 - December 2007 totaled 707,000 tons compared with 909,000 tons a year earlier.

Nationally, stocks of all hay stored on farms totaled 104.0 million tons on December 1, 2007, up 8 percent from a year ago. Disappearance of hay from May 2007 - December 2007 totaled 61.3 million tons, compared with 67.1 million tons for the same period a year ago.