



COUNTY ESTIMATES

Corn for Grain – 2003 Crop

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Colorado corn production continued to be impacted by the severe drought in 2002 as water shortages and hot dry weather extended into the 2003 season. While the total production of 120,150,000 bushels was 7 percent above the previous year's crop of 112,320,000 bushels, it was still well below the average output during the 1996 - 2001 period. The 1,080,000 acres planted for all purposes was down 120,000 acres from the previous year but the 890,000 acres harvested for grain increased 24 percent from 720,000 acres harvested in 2002. Per acre yields on most dryland acres were held in check by hot dry weather, but did average slightly higher than the previous year. The state's overall average yield of 135.0 bushels per acre was 21 bushels below a year earlier as the number of dryland acres harvested as a percent of the total increased from 8 percent in 2002 to 23 percent for the 2003 crop.

Yuma County continued to be the top corn for grain producing area in the state by producing 42,075,000 bushels of corn for grain in 2003. The latest crop was just slightly larger than the 41,800,000 bushels produced in 2002 and represented 35 percent of the state's total output of 120,150,000 bushels. Producers in Yuma County planted 242,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2003 and harvested 230,000 acres for grain. The county's planted and harvested acres were the highest in the state. The average yield of 183.0 bushels per acre from the 2003 crop was 18.5 bushels per acre below the previous year. The hot dry weather during 2003 made it difficult to meet plant needs for water which limited yield potential.

Kit Carson County moved up to a distant second place ranking for the 2003 crop with a total output of 19,250,000 bushels. The latest crop was 79 percent larger than the 10,740,000 bushels produced in 2002. Kit Carson County growers planted 179,300 acres of corn for all purposes, the second highest planted acreage of corn for all purposes in the state. The 145,000 acres harvested for grain represented a 56 percent increase from the 93,000 acres harvested in 2002. This was the second highest corn grain acres harvested in the state. Producers averaged 133.0 bushels per acre from the 2003 crop compared with a 115.5 bushel average yield from the 2002 crop. The county's irrigated yield increased from 117.0 bushels per acre in 2002 to 157.0 bushels per acre from the 2003 crop.

Phillips County was the third largest corn producing area of the state in 2003 with a total output of 14,300,000 bushels. The 2003 crop was 22 percent larger than the 11,742,000 bushels produced in 2002. Producers harvested 115,000 acres of corn for grain in 2003, up 43 percent from the 80,500 acres harvested a year earlier. However, the average yield of 124.5 bushels per acre for the 2003 crop was 21.5 bushels per acre lower than the 2002 crop average of 146.0 bushels per acre. The lower yield results primarily from a large increase in the number of dryland acres being harvested compared with a year earlier.

Morgan County maintained a fourth place ranking in corn production for 2003 with a total output of 8,740,000 bushels, down 20 percent from the 10,890,000 bushels produced the previous year. The harvested area of 55,000 acres was down 15 percent from the 65,000 acres harvested a year earlier and the average yield of 159.0 bushels per acre was 8.5 bushels below the 2002 crop average of 167.5 bushels per acre.

Weld County stayed in the list of the top five producing counties for the 2003 crop with a total output of 7,242,000 bushels. The county's latest crop was 28 percent smaller than the 2002 output of 9,990,000 bushels. The 98,200 acres planted in the county was 11,300 acres below the previous year but still the fourth largest in the state. The 55,000 acres harvested for grain represented a decline of 7,000 from the 62,000 acres harvested a year earlier. The average yield of 131.5 bushels per acre was 29.5 bushels per acre below the 2002 crop average of 161.0 bushels.

The **top five counties** produced 91,607,000 bushels of grain corn in 2003, representing 76 percent of the state's total corn for grain crop. Those same counties also produced 76 percent of the 2002 crop. The next five leading counties of **Logan, Sedgwick, Washington, Cheyenne** and **Baca** had a combined output of 23,544,000 bushels, bringing the top ten county total to 115,151,000 bushels or 96 percent of the state's total corn for grain production in 2003. The top ten counties were the only counties in the state that produced over 1,000,000 bushels of grain corn in 2003.

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Corn for Grain: Acreage and production by county and district, Colorado, 2003

County and District	Acreage planted 1/	Irrigated			Non-Irrigated			Total		
		Acreage harvested	Yield per acre	Pro-duction	Acreage harvested	Yield per acre	Pro-duction	Acreage harvested	Yield per acre	Pro-duction
	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.
Chaffee . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clear Creek . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eagle . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gilpin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gunnison . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jackson . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lake . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moffat . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Park . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pitkin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rio Blanco . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Routt . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Summit . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Teller . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NW & Mountain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boulder	1,900	1,000	140.0	140,000	...	...	...	1,000	140.0	140,000
Jefferson . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Larimer	8,400	2,000	155.0	310,000	...	...	...	2,000	155.0	310,000
Logan	68,200	40,000	156.0	6,230,000	25,000	38.5	965,000	65,000	110.5	7,195,000
Morgan	61,100	53,500	162.5	8,700,000	1,500	26.5	40,000	55,000	159.0	8,740,000
Sedgwick	47,200	32,000	159.5	5,100,000	10,000	37.5	373,000	42,000	130.5	5,473,000
Weld	98,200	53,500	134.5	7,200,000	1,500	28.0	42,000	55,000	131.5	7,242,000
Northeast	285,000	182,000	152.0	27,680,000	38,000	37.5	1,420,000	220,000	132.5	29,100,000
Adams	13,000	2,300	145.5	335,000	8,200	20.0	165,000	10,500	47.5	500,000
Arapahoe	2,000	800	119.0	95,000	700	43.0	30,000	1,500	83.5	125,000
Cheyenne	84,000	24,000	162.5	3,900,000	25,000	11.0	280,000	49,000	85.5	4,180,000
Denver . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Douglas . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Elbert	4,200	400	175.0	70,000	3,600	21.0	75,000	4,000	36.5	145,000
El Paso . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kiowa	11,800	1,800	147.0	265,000	3,200	15.5	50,000	5,000	63.0	315,000
Kit Carson	179,300	120,000	157.0	18,815,000	25,000	17.5	435,000	145,000	133.0	19,250,000
Lincoln	24,900	1,700	164.5	280,000	18,300	27.5	500,000	20,000	39.0	780,000
Phillips	116,900	70,000	181.0	12,670,000	45,000	36.0	1,630,000	115,000	124.5	14,300,000
Washington	64,900	22,000	159.0	3,500,000	33,000	29.5	970,000	55,000	81.5	4,470,000
Yuma	242,000	227,000	185.0	42,000,000	3,000	25.0	75,000	230,000	183.0	42,075,000
East Central	743,000	470,000	174.5	81,930,000	165,000	25.5	4,210,000	635,000	135.5	86,140,000
Archuleta . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delta	4,400	2,200	159.0	350,000	...	...	...	2,200	159.0	350,000
Dolores	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Garfield . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hinsdale . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
La Plata . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mesa	5,700	2,500	138.0	345,000	...	...	...	2,500	138.0	345,000
Montezuma . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Montrose	9,200	5,300	154.5	820,000	...	...	...	5,300	154.5	820,000
Ouray . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Juan . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Miguel . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Southwest	19,500	10,000	151.5	1,515,000	...	...	...	10,000	151.5	1,515,000
Alamosa . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Conejos . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Costilla . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mineral . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rio Grande . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saguache . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Luis Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Baca	17,500	15,300	144.5	2,210,000	1,700	9.5	16,000	17,000	131.0	2,226,000
Bent	1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Crowley	300	300	100.0	30,000	...	...	...	300	100.0	30,000
Custer . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fremont	700	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Huerfano	600	200	100.0	20,000	...	...	...	200	100.0	20,000
Las Animas . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Otero	300	300	183.5	55,000	...	...	...	300	183.5	55,000
Prowers	7,400	4,100	173.0	710,000	300	13.5	4,000	4,400	162.5	714,000
Pueblo	4,200	2,800	125.0	350,000	...	...	...	2,800	125.0	350,000
Southeast	32,500	23,000	146.5	3,375,000	2,000	10.0	20,000	25,000	136.0	3,395,000
State Total	1,080,000	685,000	167.0	114,500,000	205,000	27.5	5,650,000	890,000	135.0	120,150,000

1/ Planted for all purposes.