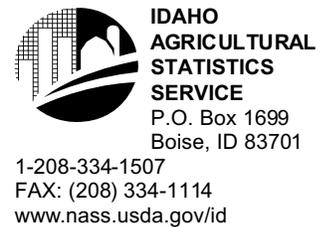


IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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Spring Wheat and Barley Acreage Increase from 2003

Idaho's spring wheat seedings, at 490,000 acres, are up 2 percent from the 480,000 acres planted in 2003, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. Harvested acreage is set at 470,000 acres, an increase of 20,000 acres from last year. Winter Wheat seedings of 720,000 acres decreased 5 percent from the previous year. Harvested acres are expected to total 680,000 acres, down 40,000 acres from 2003. Barley acreage planted is estimated at 760,000 acres, 1 percent more than last year's 750,000 acres. Harvested acreage is expected to total 740,000, up from 720,000 acres harvested in 2003. Acres seeded to oats total 90,000, 25 percent less than the 120,000 acres planted in 2003. Acres harvested for grain are estimated at 20,000, down 5,000 acres from last year. The area planted to corn reached a new record high at 210,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from last year and up from the previous record of 195,000 acres planted in 2000. Corn to be harvested for grain is forecast at 65,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from 2003. Planted acreage of sugarbeets is estimated at 194,000 acres, down 7 percent from the 208,000 acres planted in 2003. Acres of sugarbeets for harvest are expected to total 192,000, a decrease of 15,000 acres from last year. Dry bean planted acreage is up 7 percent to 80,000 acres planted and 78,000 acres expected to be harvested. Estimates for dry bean acreage include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. Idaho farmers and ranchers are expected to harvest 1,480,000 acres of all hay, down 1 percent from last year. Alfalfa hay harvested is at 1,180,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from last year. Other hay is estimated at 300,000 harvested acres, unchanged from 2003.

For the U.S., winter wheat seeded area is 43.5 million acres, 3 percent below last year. Expected area harvested for grain is 34.8 million acres, down 5 percent from 2003. Other spring wheat seedings total 13.7 million acres, down 1 percent from 2003. Growers intend to harvest 13.2 million acres for grain, down 2 percent from last year. Barley seedings last fall and this spring total 4.67 million acres, down 12 percent from the 5.30 million acres seeded a year ago. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 4.15 million acres, 11 percent less than last year. Oats planted last fall and this spring total 4.22 million acres, 8 percent less than last year. Growers intend to harvest 1.94 million acres of oats for grain in 2004, down 13 percent from the 2003 harvested acreage. Corn planted area is estimated at 81.0 million acres, up 3 percent from 2003. Growers expect to harvest 73.4 million acres for grain, up 3 percent from 2003. Area planted to sugarbeets totaled 1.34 million acres, down 2 percent from 2003. Harvested area is forecast at 1.31 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Dry bean planted acreage, at 1.42 million acres, is up 1 percent from last year, but 26 percent below two years ago. Producers expect to harvest 61.6 million acres of all hay in 2004, 3 percent below 2003. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage is estimated at 22.2 million acres, down 6 percent from last year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507