

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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Idaho Dry Bean Production Increases from Last Year

Idaho dry bean production is forecast to be 1.64 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year's 1.50 million cwt, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. Yields are expected to average 2,100 pounds per acre, an increase of 50 pounds per acre from 2003, but 50 pounds below the August forecast. Harvested acreage is expected to total 78,000 acres, up 7 percent from last year's 73,000 acres harvested. Dry Bean estimates include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. Production of alfalfa hay is estimated at 4.25 million tons, down 4 percent from 2003. Harvested acreage at 1.18 million acres, is down 2 percent from last year. Other hay production is estimated at 540,000 tons from 300,000 harvested acres, up from the 510,000 tons from 300,000 acres in 2003. Idaho sugarbeet production for 2004 is forecast to be 5.20 million tons, down 14 percent from the 6.04 million tons a year ago. Yield of 27.1 tons per acre is down from last year's 29.2 tons per acre. Harvested area of 192,000 acres is down from the 207,000 acres harvested in 2003.

Nationally, the 2004 crop for dry beans is forecast at 18.7 million cwt, down 17 percent from a year ago and 38 percent below 2002. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.25 million acres, down 7 percent from 2003. The average yield of 1,495 pounds per acre is 177 pounds below 2003. Production of alfalfa hay is expected to total 77.4 million tons, up 1 percent from last year. Other hay production is estimated at a record high 88.5 million tons, 10 percent above last year's production. U.S. sugarbeet production is forecast at 28.8 million tons, 6 percent below the 30.6 million tons produced last year. Harvested area is expected total 1.33 million acres, 2 percent less than last year.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.