

March 31, 2003

MPR4-03

Corn Stable & Soybeans Decrease

Maryland: Acres planted for **corn** is forecast at 510,000 acres for the 2003 crop year, the same amount as last year's final estimate of 510,000 acres, and up 4 percent from 2001's final estimate of 490,000 acres. The five year average for corn planted acres comes to 492,000 acres. Corn acreage has ranged from 470,000 acres to 510,000 acres during the last 5 years. Maryland producers intend to plant 480,000 acres of **soybeans**, down 2 percent from 2002 and 8 percent from 2001's final estimate of 520,000 acres. The five year average for soybean plantings is 500,000 acres. The largest soybean acreage in the last seven years was 1997 when 530,000 acres were planted.

For small grains, **winter wheat** plantings are 165,000 acres, up 10 percent from the December seeding forecast and down 15 percent from last year. **Barley** planted acreage is estimated at 45,000 acres, the same amount as last year. For the 2002 crop year, **sorghum** planting intentions are forecast at 6,000 acres, a 20 percent increase from last year's estimate of 5,000 acres.

Maryland **tobacco** acreage is forecast at 1,500 acres, down 12 percent from the 2002 estimate of 1,700. All **hay** harvested acres are forecast at 210,000, down 5 percent from last year's final estimate of 220,000 acres.

United States: **Corn** growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001. Expected acreage is up in the eastern Corn Belt as growers are switching back to corn after planting soybeans last year when persistent wet weather in the spring prevented them from seeding corn. However, all States in the Great Plains, except North Dakota, are decreasing their intended corn plantings as continued drought conditions are expected to persist into the 2003 crop year.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 73.2 million acres of soybeans, down 1 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest planted area since 1998. This is the third consecutive year that soybean acreage has declined in the United States. Growers in most of the Corn Belt and central Great Plains States intend to plant fewer acres in 2003. Expected increases in acreage, offsetting some to the decreases were located in the northern Great Plains, upper Mississippi Valley, Atlantic Coast, and Delta regions.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres in 2003, up 2 percent from 2002. Winter wheat planted area for the 2003 crop is 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002. Of the total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres White Winter. The 2003 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 14.6 million, down 7 percent from last year. Of the total, about 13.8 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Area planted to Durum wheat is intended to total 2.83 million acres, down 3 percent from a year ago.

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ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2002 AND 2003

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	510	510	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	425	----	76	----	32,300	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	80	----	12	----	960	----
Soybeans	BU	490	480	470	----	23	----	10,810	----
Sorghum ¹	BU	5	6	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	4	----	47	----	188	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	1	----	11	----	11	----
Winter Wheat	BU	195	165	180	----	66	----	11,880	----
Barley	BU	45	45	41	----	82	----	3,362	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	220	210	2.3	----	508	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	60	----	2.6	----	156	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	160	----	2.2	----	352	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	1.7	1.5	1,400	----	2,380	----
Potatoes,Summer	CWT	4.8	----	4.7	----	250	----	1,175	----
United States									
Corn ¹	ACR	79,054	79,022	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	69,313	----	130	----	9,008	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	7,490	----	14	----	105	----
Soybeans	BU	73,758	73,182	72,160	----	37.8	----	2,730	----
Sorghum ¹	BU	9,580	9,451	----	----	---	----	---	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	7,299	----	50.7	----	370	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	352	----	9.5	----	3	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	41,735	44,308	29,651	----	39	----	1,143	----
Barley	BU	5,073	5,379	4,135	----	55	----	227	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	64,497	63,552	2.00	----	151	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	23,135	----	3.19	----	74	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	41,362	----	1.86	----	77	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	430.3	417.5	2,068	----	890	----
Potatoes,Summer	CWT	63.0	----	59.9	----	309	----	18	----

¹ Acres planted is for all purposes.