MINNESOTA AG NEWS

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

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MINNESOTA CORN AND SOYBEAN ACREAGE INTENTIONS UP

(NOTE: The acreage that farmers actually plant in Minnesota and the U.S. may change from those published in this report due to many factors, including availability of credit, grain prices, changing weather conditions, availability of inputs, and the influence of this report on farmers' plans.)

SOYBEAN planting intended acreage is estimated at a record 7.7 million acres, up 200,000 acres from 2003, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service.

CORN growers in Minnesota intend to plant an estimated 7.4 million acres for all purposes, up 200,000 acres from last year.

SPRING WHEAT planting acreage intentions are estimated at 1.6 million acres, down 250,000 acres from last year.

SUGARBEET planting intended acreage of 486,000 acres is down 6,000 acres from 2003.

OAT planting intentions at 290,000 acres are down 17% from last year.

Minnesota's **BARLEY** planting intentions decreased 42% from last year as farmers intend to plant 110,000 acres.

The state's **ALL SUNFLOWER** planting intentions of 75,000 acres are down 17% from 2003. **OIL** acreage of 40,000 would be down 15,000 acres from 2003. **NON-OIL** acres of 35,000 would remain unchanged from last year.

Crop	2003 Planted	2004 Intentions	% change previous year
	-1,000 acres-		*Percent*
Corn	7,200	7,400	+3
Soybeans	7,500	7,700	+3
All Wheat	1,877	1,627	-13
Spring Wheat	1,850	1,600	-14
Durum Wheat	2	2	unch.
Winter Wheat 1/	25	25	unch.
Barley	190	110	-42
Oats	350	290	-17
Sugarbeets	492	486	-1
Dry Beans	115	120	+4
All Sunflower	90	75	-17
Oil	55	40	-27
Non-Oil	35	35	unch.
Canola	57	60	+5
All Hay 2/	2,075	2,100	+1

1/ Acres planted in preceding fall. 2/ Harvested acres.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn Planted Acreage Up Fractionally from 2003
Soybean Acreage Up 3 Percent

CORN planted area for all purposes is estimated at 79.0 million acres, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt as growers are hoping to take advantage of higher corn prices. However, most States in the Southeast and southern Great Plains are intending to decrease their corn plantings as producers are switching to soybeans and cotton due to more favorable prices relative to corn.

SOYBEAN growers intend to plant an estimated 75.4 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record and a rebound from the three year decline in acreage. Growers in all States, except South Dakota and Wisconsin, intend to plant more than or at least as many acres of soybeans as last year. Current high prices are encouraging many producers to plant more soybeans, with the largest acreage increases expected in North Dakota, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Minnesota.

ALL WHEAT planted area is expected to total 59.5 million acres in 2004, down 4 percent from 2003. Winter wheat planted area for the 2004 crop is 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Of the total, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.3 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres are White Winter. The 2004 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 13.3 million, down 4 percent from last year. Of the total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Area planted to Durum wheat is intended to total 2.76 million acres, down 5 percent from a year ago.

BARLEY growers intend to seed 4.68 million acres for 2004, down 12% from a year ago. The intended acreage in North Dakota is down 12% to 1.8 million acres from last year.

SUGARBEET area planted for the 2004 crop year is expected to total 1.36 million acres, less than 1% below the 2003 planted area. Minnesota expects 486,000 acres down 1% from 492,000 acres in 2003. North Dakota is estimated at planting 255,000 acres, which is down 2% from 2003.

(OVER)

Douglas Kilburg
Agricultural Statistician

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State Statistician

Biotechnology Varieties

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the March Agricultural Survey in all States each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States were asked what they intend to plant during the upcoming growing season. Questions include whether or not farmers intend to plant corn, soybean, or upland cotton seed that, through biotechnology, is resistant to herbicides, insects, or both. The biotechnology (biotech) questions were asked for the first time in March 2000. The States published individually in the following tables represent 82 percent of all corn planted acres, 89 percent of all soybean planted acres, and 81 percent of all upland cotton planted acres.

Conventionally bred herbicide resistant varieties were excluded. Insect resistant varieties include only those containing *bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). These Bt varieties include those that contain more than one gene that can resist different types of insects. Stacked gene varieties only include those containing biotech traits for both herbicide and insect resistance.

Corn: Biotechnology Varieties by State and United States, Percent of All Corn Planted, 2003-2004

State	Insect Resistant (Bt)		Herbicide Resistant	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
IL	23	28	4	5
IN	8	10	7	8
IA	33	37	8	11
KS	25	30	17	18
MI	18	16	14	16
MN	31	30	15	19
MO	32	32	9	11
NE	36	41	11	15
OH	6	10	3	5
SD	34	32	24	28
WI	21	24	9	13
Oth Sts [1]	17	20	17	18
US	25	27	11	14
	Stacked Gene Varieties		All Biotech Varieties	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
IL	1	2	28	35
IN	1	1	16	19
IA	4	5	45	53
KS	5	5	47	53
MI	3	3	35	35
MN	7	8	53	57
MO	1	4	42	47
NE	5	8	52	64
OH	*	1	9	16
SD	17	20	75	80
WI	2	2	32	39
Oth Sts [1]	2	4	36	42
US	4	5	40	46

* Data rounds to less than 0.5 percent.
[1] Other States includes all other States in the Corn estimating program.

Soybeans: Biotechnology Varieties by State and United States, Percent of All Soybeans Planted, 2003-2004

State	Herbicide Resistant Only		All Biotech Varieties	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AR	84	92	84	92
IL	77	82	77	82
IN	88	88	88	88
IA	84	89	84	89
KS	87	91	87	91
MI	73	75	73	75
MN	79	83	79	83
MS	89	94	89	94
MO	83	88	83	88
NE	86	89	86	89
ND	74	81	74	81
OH	74	77	74	77
SD	91	96	91	96
WI	84	85	84	85
Oth Sts [1]	76	82	76	82
US	81	86	81	86

[1] Other States includes all other States in the Soybean estimating program.