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MINNESOTA CORN FORECAST AT RECORD HIGH BUT SOYBEAN FORECAST DOWN FROM LAST MONTH

This is the last production forecast of the season. Production figures may change between now and when the final estimates are released, due to data being collected on the end-of-season crop survey, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Final acreage and production figures will be released on January 12, 2005.

CORN grain production is forecast at 1,083 billion bushels, up from the October 1 forecast, and up 3 percent from the 2002 record year, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Yield is forecast at 157.0 bushels per acre, which ties the record yield set in 2002.

SOYBEAN production for Minnesota is forecast at 244.8 million bushels, down 6 percent from the October forecast but up 3 percent from 2003. Based on November 1 conditions, the yield is forecast at 34.0 bushels per acre which is down 2 bushels from October but up 2 bushels from last year.

The **SUGARBEET** crop is estimated at 9.92 million tons, up 4 percent from last month but down 1 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 20.7 tons per acre, up 0.8 ton from October 1 but down 0.8 ton per acre from the previous record high in 2000.

FALL POTATO production is forecast at 18.5 million hundredweight, down 17 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at a new record of 430 hundredweight, up 45 hundredweight from the record high in 2003.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 11.7 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 16 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of November 1, the yield is expected to average 160.2 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from October and 18.0 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous records for both were set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Across the U.S., yields are forecast at record high levels in 19 of the 33 published corn States. With the exception of Wisconsin, yields in the Corn Belt States are forecast at record highs as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.15 billion bushels, up 1 percent from October and 28 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 42.6 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from October and 8.7 bushels above last year. Producers in the Corn Belt, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Carolinas are realizing higher yields than expected last month, while yield prospects decreased as harvest progressed in North Dakota and Minnesota. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 74.0 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 2 percent from 2003.

Sugarbeets: Production for 2004 is forecast at 29.8 million tons, 3 percent above the October forecast but 3 percent below last year's production. The yield is forecast at 22.4 tons per acre, up 0.7 ton from October but 0.3 ton below 2003. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.33 million acres, unchanged from last month but 2 percent below last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production of fall potatoes for 2004 is forecast at 408 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year for comparable States. South Dakota and Utah were dropped from the program starting in 2004. Area harvested, at 1.02 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but 6 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 398 cwt per acre, 22 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, 6 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

MINNESOTA & U.S. HARVESTED ACRES, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

COMMODITY	2003 HARVESTED ACRES (000)	2004 HARVESTED ACRES (000)	2003 YIELD	2004 YIELD	2003 PRODUCTION (000)	2004 PRODUCTION (000)
MINNESOTA						
CORN (Bu)	6,650	6,900	146.0	157.0	970,900	1,083,300
SOYBEANS (Bu)	7,450	7,200	32.0	34.0	238,400	244,800
SUGARBEETS (Ton)	487	479	20.6	20.7	10,032	9,915
FALL POTATOES (Cwt)	58	43	385	430	22,330	18,490
UNITED STATES						
CORN (Bu)	71,139	73,311	142.2	160.2	10,113,887	11,740,920
SOYBEANS (Bu)	72,476	73,990	33.9	42.6	2,453,665	3,150,441
SUGARBEETS (Ton)	1,348	1,326	22.7	22.4	30,583	29,765
FALL POTATOES (Cwt)	1,091	1,025	376	398	410,588	407,786

**WATCH FOR OUR ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY
TO BE RELEASED ON JANUARY 12TH**