



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS CONTINUE DECLINE

LINCOLN, Neb., January 11, 2002-Nebraska's winter wheat seedings for the 2002 crop is expected to total 1.7 million acres, down 3 percent from last year, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. This change continues the long term trend in declining wheat acres in the State.

Seeding was underway by the first of September. Rainfall slowed seeding during the first few weeks but reached a normal pace as the planting season ended. At the end of December, the crop condition rated 66 percent good or excellent, well above the 38 percent last year.

UNITED STATES WINTER WHEAT PLANTINGS LOWEST SINCE 1971

Winter wheat seeded in the U.S. for 2002 is expected to total 41.0 million acres, down fractionally from 2001. This is the smallest area seeded since 1971. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 29.3 million; Soft Red Winter, 8.3 million; White Winter, 3.4 million.

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