



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA'S JUNE 1, 2003 ACREAGE REPORT

LINCOLN, Neb., June 30, 2003-Nebraska's producers increased acreage devoted to sorghum, oats, millet, alfalfa hay, and winter wheat (planted last fall) while decreasing acreage devoted to corn, dry edible beans, sugarbeets, sunflowers, and other hay according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service.

Nebraska **corn** growers planted 8.0 million acres in 2003, down 5 percent from last year and 1 percent below 2001. Biotechnology varieties accounted for 52 percent of the planted acreage, up from 46 percent last year.

Soybean producers planted 4.7 million acres, unchanged from the previous year. The 2003 plantings are equal to the second highest of record, but 5 percent below the record high of 4.95 million set in 2001. Of these acres, 86 percent are planted to biotechnology varieties resistant to herbicides, up from 85 percent last year.

Last fall **winter wheat** was sown on 1.8 million acres, up 9 percent from a year earlier and the largest acreage in four years.

Sorghum growers planted 650,000 acres, 44 percent more than 2002, up 18 percent from 2001, and the largest total in five years.

Alfalfa Hay acreage for harvest, at 1.45 million, is up 7 percent from last year while other types of hay cut is down 3 percent. **Oat** seedings at 195,000 acres are up 11 percent from 2002. **Dry edible bean** producers planted 160,000 acres, down 14 percent from a year earlier. **Sugarbeet** plantings of 39,800 acres are down 30 percent from 2002. **Sunflower** acreage of 55,000 is down 5 percent from a year ago. **Millet** was being planted on 160,000 acres, up 23 percent from 2002.

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