



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA 2003 CROP PRODUCTION ABOVE YEAR AGO

Lincoln, Neb., January 12, 2004 -- **Corn** for grain production in Nebraska based on year end surveys is estimated at 1.12 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from the November forecast and 19 percent above 2002, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Yield is estimated at 146 bushels per acre, 18 bushels above last year and second highest on record. Farmers harvested 7.7 million acres of corn for grain, up 5 percent from last year.

Soybean production for 2003 totaled 180 million bushels, up 2 percent from the November forecast and up 2 percent from last year. This is the third largest crop behind 2001's record production of 223 million bushels followed by 1999's production. Yield, at 40 bushels per acre, is 1.5 bushels above 2002. Area for harvest, at 4.49 million acres, is down 2 percent from 2002.

Sorghum for grain production in 2003 is estimated at 31 million bushels, down 2 percent from the November forecast but more than double the production of last year. Yield is estimated at 62 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain was 500,000 acres, up 67 percent or 200,000 acres from last year.

Hay production totaled 7.6 million tons, up 28 percent from the previous year's crop. Acreage harvested is 3.15 million acres, down 100,000 acres from 2002. Yield, at 2.41 tons per acre, is up 0.6 ton from last year and equal to the 1999 record high. **Alfalfa** production is up 29 percent from a year ago and **all other hay** production is up 25 percent.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bb/2004/crop0104.pdf>

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