

NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA 2004 CORN PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH

LINCOLN, Neb., September 10, 2004 -- Based on September 1 conditions, Nebraska's 2004 **corn** production is forecast at 1.24 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 10 percent above 2003. This production is fractionally above the previous high set in 1998, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Acreage to be harvested for grain remained unchanged at 7.9 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. Average yield is forecast at a record high 157 bushels per acre, 2 bushels above last month, 11 bushels above last year, and 10 bushels above the previous high set in 2001. "While August was drier and cooler than normal, a record high ear count combined with the largest average ear size since 1994, continue to point toward an exceptional corn crop. For soybeans, the dry August resulted in some of the later blooms not setting pods, decreasing yield potential," said Mark Harris, director, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service.

Soybean production in Nebraska is forecast at 212 million bushels, 2 percent below last month, but 18 percent above last year and second highest on record behind 2001. Acres for harvest at 4.7 million are unchanged from last month and are second highest on record. Yield is forecast at 45 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from August but up 5 bushels from 2003.

Sorghum production in Nebraska is forecast at 35.7 million bushels, unchanged from the August forecast and 15 percent above last year. Acres for harvest at 420,000 are unchanged from the August forecast. Yield is forecast at 85 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month and up 23 bushels from last year.

Sugarbeet production of 952 thousand tons is down 1 percent from last month, but up 11 percent from 2003. Yield at 20.0 tons per acre is down 0.2 ton from last month and 0.3 ton from last year.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bb/2004/crop0904.pdf>

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