

NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA 2004 SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION DOWN FROM A YEAR AGO

LINCOLN, Neb., September 30, 2004 -- The final 2004 estimate for Nebraska **wheat** production totaled 61.1 million bushels, 27 percent below last year's crop but 22 percent greater than two years ago, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. This estimate is up 6 percent from the August 1 forecast. Average yield in Nebraska is estimated at 37 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from the August forecast, but 9 bushels below last year. Acreage for grain, at 1.65 million, is 170,000 less than last year and 150,000 acres below August. "Additional acreage with low yield potential was abandoned or cut for hay, which resulted in the harvested grain yield on the remaining acres to be above the August forecast," said Mark Harris director of Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service.

Oat production in 2004 totaled 3.74 million bushels, 43 percent below the 2003 crop, largely because of fewer acres seeded. Planted acreage, at 140,000, is down 36 percent from 2003 and harvested acreage for grain, at 55,000, is down 39 percent from a year ago. Yield, at 68 bushels per acre, is down 5 bushels from last year record high but still fourth highest on record.

Barley production totaled 162,000 bushels, down 19 percent from last year's crop.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bbs/smgr0904.pdf>

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