

NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture - Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service
100 Centennial Mall North Suite 298 - Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 - Phone: (402) 437-5541

Contact: Mark Harris (402)437-5541

E-mail: nass-ne@nass.usda.gov

Web: www.usda.gov/nass/

NEBRASKA MAY 1 WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST AND HAY STOCKS

LINCOLN, Neb., May 12, 2005 -- Based on May 1 conditions, Nebraska's 2005 **winter wheat** crop is forecast at 76.5 million bushels, up 25 percent from last year's crop, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Average yield is forecast at 45 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from last year and 5 bushels above the ten-year average.

Acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 1.7 million acres, up 50,000 acres or 3 percent from last year. This would be 94 percent of the planted acres, compared to 89 percent last year and the ten-year average of 93 percent. The May 1 wheat condition was rated 67 percent good to excellent, this is the highest early May condition since 1999. As of May 1, soil moisture supplies were above a year ago and the 5-year average level with crop development about a week ahead of normal. Disease and insect pressure to date has been light.

May 1 **hay stocks** of 1.38 million tons are down 14 percent from last year but up 58 percent from two years ago. All hay production in 2004 was 6.14 million tons, down 19 percent from 2003.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bb/2005/crop0505.pdf>

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