



NEWS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA'S 2005 CORN AND SOYBEAN YIELDS BELOW YEAR AGO

LINCOLN, Neb., September 12, 2005 -- Based on September 1 conditions, Nebraska's **corn** crop is forecast at 1.30 billion bushels, 3 percent above last month but 2 percent below last year making this the second highest production of record, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. Yield is forecast at 160 bushels per acre, 4 bushels above last month but 6 bushels below last year's record high. Area to be harvested for grain remained at 8.1 million acres, up 2 percent from a year ago. "The objective field checks and farmer reports we received continue to show excellent irrigated corn yield prospects. Dryland yields are lower than a year ago but record high ear counts have lessened the decline. This combination has resulted in an excellent overall yield which is the second highest on record," said Mark Harris, Director of the Nebraska Field Office.

Soybean production in Nebraska is forecast at 218 million bushels, unchanged from last month but 1 percent below last year and third highest on record behind 2001 and 2004. Acres for harvest, at 4.95 million, are unchanged from last month and are highest on record. Yield is forecast at 44 bushels per acre, unchanged from August but down 2.5 bushels from 2004's record high.

Sorghum production in Nebraska is forecast at 22.4 million bushels, up 8 percent from the August forecast but 33 percent below last year. Acres for harvest, at 270,000, are unchanged, down 35 percent from the previous year. Yield forecast, at 83 bushels per acre, is up 6 bushels from the previous month and up 2 bushels from last year.

Sugarbeet production of 919 thousand tons is down 11 percent from last month and down 12 percent from 2004. Yield, at 20.1 tons per acre, is down 2.4 tons from last month and 2.0 tons from last year.

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