

OKLAHOMA CROP PRODUCTION

2001 CROP REVIEW

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Oklahoma wheat growers maintained the trend of recent years by diversifying into other crops. The steady downward slide in wheat planted acres began after the 1991 crop and this year's planted acreage was the lowest in 30 years. Harvested acres in 2001, at 3.7 million, decreased for the fourth straight year and were the lowest since 1971. Boosted by an above average yield, production of the state's number one crop totaled 122.1 million bushels which was still the lowest production since 1996's drought-reduced crop. Harvest began in late May and was essentially completed statewide by July 1.

Production of other small grains also decreased from last year. Oat production decreased 42 percent from last year to a new record low. Rye production decreased 22 percent from the previous year but still exceeded one million bushels for the fifth straight year.

Production of most row crops increased from last year's drought-reduced crops. Corn was the lone exception as production decreased 22 percent from last year. An average yield of 125 bushels per acre was down 15 bushels from the previous year to the lowest yield since 1994. Production of grain sorghum increased 11 percent from 2000 due largely to a 17 percent increase in harvested acres. Cotton production increased 30 percent from the previous year. Cotton yield exceeded 500 pounds per acre for the third time in over 100 years of record keeping. Soybean production increased 16 percent from 2000. Peanut production increased 64 percent from last year due largely to the second highest average yield on record.

Hay production totaled 4.0 million tons, down 15 percent from the previous year. Alfalfa production decreased 19 percent from 2000 to the lowest level in 41 years. Production of all other hay decreased 14 percent to 3.1 million tons.

Minor crop production varied by crop. Production of watermelons increased 79 percent from last year's drought-reduced crop. Pecans, at 20 million pounds, was up significantly from last year's output but well below the record high of 63 million pounds set in 1999. Peach production decreased for the third straight year.

