

OKLAHOMA CROP PRODUCTION

2003 CROP REVIEW

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Above average rainfall during September and October of 2002 helped early wheat growth and development. As moisture tapered off, the wheat root system began to strengthen. Timely rainfall and good harvesting conditions enabled the 2003 wheat crop to tie 1998 for the record-high yield. Production was the highest since 1998 and the seventh highest production on record.

Production of other small grains also increased from 2002. Oat production was up 22 percent. Rye production increased 66 percent, exceeding two million bushels for the first time in history.

Production for all summer crops varied by commodity. Cotton yield set a record-high 616 pounds per acre in 2003 en route to the highest production since 1994. Peanut production was less than 100 million pounds for the first time since 1957. Although peanut yield tied last year's record-high of 2,800 pounds per acre, harvested acres were the lowest since 1937. Soybean yield tied 2002 as the fourth highest on record. Production of corn was the lowest since 1997 and production of grain sorghum was the lowest since 1956.

Hay production totaled 4.99 million tons, down 17 percent from 2002's record-high production. Alfalfa production decreased 19 percent from 2002 while production of all other hay, at 4 million tons, was down 16 percent from 2002's record-high production.

Minor crop production showed mixed results when compared to last year. Production of watermelons increased 17 percent from 2002 to the highest levels since 1996. A record high watermelon yield of 140 cwt. per acre was set. Pecans, at 6 million pounds, were down 40 percent from 2002 and well below the record high of 63 million pounds set 4 years ago. Peach production, at 3 million pounds, decreased for the fifth straight year.