



USDA
South Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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South Dakota MAY CROP REPORT

News Release

May 12, 2004

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

SIoux FALLS, MAY 12, 2004 – The South Dakota May 1, 2004, winter wheat production forecast is 54.72 million bushels, down 8 percent from last year's 59.34 million bushels, according to USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. The winter wheat yield for 2004 is forecast at 38 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels per acre from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1,440,000 acres, up 60,000 from 2003. Planted acreage, at 1.7 million, is up 6 percent (100,000 acres) from the previous year.

May 1, 2004 on-farm hay stocks, at 1.5 million tons, are up 31 percent from May 2003. Hay disappearance from December 1, 2003 to May 1, 2004 was 5.7 million tons, up 22 percent from last year. Both the larger stocks and usage resulted from a 50 percent increase in hay production in 2003 versus the drought reduced 2002 hay crop.

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