

South Dakota AUGUST CROP REPORT

News Release

August 12, 2004

CORN, SOYBEAN, AND ALFALFA HAY PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

SIoux FALLS, August 12, 2004 – South Dakota's first corn, soybean and hay production forecast for 2004 is for larger crops than last year, according to USDA's South Dakota Agriculture Statistics Service. Higher yields were the primary cause of this year's larger production.

Corn production in 2004 is forecast at 466.1 million bushels, up 9 percent from last year. Yield forecast at 118 bushels per acre is up 7 bushels from last year and would be the second highest yield on record. Acres to be harvested for grain, at 3.95 million, are up 3 percent from last year.

South Dakota's August 1 **soybean** production forecast is 136.6 million bushels, up 21 percent from last year's production. Estimated yield, at 33 bushels per acre, is 6 bushels above last year and 2 bushels above 2002. Acres for harvest, at 4.14 million, are down 1 percent from last year.

Alfalfa hay production in South Dakota, is forecasted at 5.46 million tons, up 6 percent from last year. Forecasted yield is 2.1 tons per acre, compared to 1.9 tons last year. Alfalfa acres harvested, at 2.6 million, are down 4 percent from 2003. **Other hay** production, at 1.80 million tons, is down 13 percent from last year. Forecasted yield is 1.2 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from a year ago. Other hay harvested acreage, at 1.5 million, is down 6 percent from last year.

Winter wheat production, at 52.5 million bushels, is 20 percent above the July 1 forecast. The yield, at 42 bushels, is up 7 bushels from last month's forecast but down 1 bushel from last year.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 63.0 million bushels, 11 percent above the July 1 forecast. Yield, at 42 bushels per acre, is up 4 bushels from last month's forecast but unchanged from last year's yield.

Sorghum production is forecast at 8.96 million bushels, up 33 percent from 2003. Expected yield, at 56 bushels per acre, is 11 bushels above last year. Grain sorghum harvested acres, at 160,000, are up 7 percent from last year.

Oat production, at 16.0 million bushels, is up 2 percent from last year and up 11 percent from the July forecast. The forecasted yield, a new record at 80 bushels, is up 12 bushels from last year and up 8 bushels from the July forecast. Acres harvested for grain are forecasted at 200,000, down 30,000 acres from last year.

Barley production is forecast at 3.05 million bushels, up 3 percent from last month. Yield is forecast at 61 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last month's forecast and up 8 bushels from last year.

Dry Edible Bean production is forecast at 18.0 million pounds, up from 13.3 million pounds last year. Expected yield, at 1,800 pounds per acre, is 30 pounds above last year. Harvested acres, at 10,000, are up 33 percent from last year.

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