

# South Dakota ANNUAL ROW CROP SUMMARY

News Release

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## ***2003 CROPS REBOUND AFTER DROUGHT***

**SIoux FALLS, JANUARY 12, 2004** – Coming off the drought in 2002 and a very dry winter season, many crops rebounded in terms of yield and production in 2003, according to year-end estimates compiled and released by USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service.

All hay production was 7.21 million tons, up 50 percent from 2002. Yield was 1.68 tons per acre. Acres harvested were up 300,000 from 2002, to 4.3 million. Alfalfa production, at 5.13 million tons, was up 53 percent and represented 71 percent of the total. It had a yield of 1.9 tons per acre. Harvested acres were up 300,000 acres from last year, to 2.7 million. All other hay production, at 2.08 million tons, was up 44 percent, and had a yield of 1.3 tons per acre. Harvested acres, at 1.6 million, were unchanged from 2002.

New seedings of alfalfa in 2003 totaled 230,000 acres in South Dakota, down 8 percent from 2002. Newly seeded acres are normally harvested for dry hay for the first time the following year.

Soybean production, at 113.1 million bushels, was 11 percent below last year's production. The yield was 27 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from last year. Harvested acres, at 4.19 million, were up 2 percent from 2002. Planted acres, at 4.25, were at the same level as 2002.

Corn for grain production, at 427.35 million bushels, was up 41 percent from 2002. Yield, at 111 bushels per acre, was up 16 bushels from last year. Producers harvested 3.85 million acres for grain, up 20 percent from 2002. Planted acres, at 4.4 million, was unchanged from 2002.

Sorghum for grain production, at 6.75 million bushels, was up 121 percent from 2002. Yield, at 45 bushels per acre, was 11 bushels above last year. Harvested acres, at 150,000, were up 67 percent from 2002. Planted acres, at 270,000, were up 23 percent from last year.

All sunflower production, at 457.5 million pounds, was 22 percent above last year. Yield, at 1,005 pounds per acre, was up 136 pounds from last year. Planted and harvested acres totaled 505,000 and 455,000, respectively. Oil sunflower production, at 430 million pounds, represented 94 percent of the total. It had a yield of 1,000 pounds per acre with 430,000 acres harvested. Non-oil sunflowers had a yield of 1,100 pounds per acre with 25,000 acres harvested.

Proso millet grain production was 2.805 million bushels, up 192 percent from 2002. Yield of 17 bushels per acre was 1 bushel above a year earlier. Harvested acres, at 165,000, were up 175 percent. Acres planted, at 210,000, were up 110 percent from 2002.

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