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Washington Agricultural Statistics Service

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NEWS

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U. S. All Wheat Production 8 Percent Below Last Year Washington's All Wheat Production 3 Percent Above 2003

All Wheat - United States - All wheat production in the United States in 2004 totaled 2.16 billion bushels, 8 percent below 2003. Grain was harvested from 50.2 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. The U. S. yield is 43.1 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from a year ago. **Washington's** wheat production is ranked fifth in the Nation, behind Kansas, North Dakota, Montana, and Oklahoma. This year's crop totaled 143.5 million bushels, 3 percent more than the 2003 crop and 11 percent above the 2002 crop, according to the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service.

Winter Wheat - United States - The 2004 U. S. Winter wheat production is estimated at 1.50 million bushels. This is 13 percent below last year but 32 percent above 2002's drought reduced crop. The U. S. yield is 43.5 bushels per acre, 3.2 bushels below last year and 5.3 bushels above two years ago. Planted acres is 43.4 million acres and harvested 34.5 million acres. Hard red winter wheat comprised 57.1 percent of the total winter wheat, soft red totaled 25.4 percent and the remainder, 17.5 percent, was white winter wheat. **Washington** - Washington wheat growers produced 117.3 million bushels in 2004, from 1.75 million harvested acres. The average 67.0 bushels per acre was 2.0 bushels per acre above 2003 and 9.0 bushels above 2002.

Seeding for the 2004 winter wheat crop began in late August 2003. The southeast corner was hoping for rain while growers in the central area of the State had almost ideal conditions. By Labor Day 2003, drilling in the central area was winding down while some producers in Whitman County were waiting for cooler temperatures and moisture. By late September 2003, about three-fourths of the crop was seeded and one-third emerged. Dry conditions concerned all growers. By mid-October 2003 virtually all fields were seeded, almost 70 percent emerged, and all growers were hoping for rain. Moisture supplies improved in January and February 2004. May 2004 arrived with high winds and severe blowing dust drying some of the earlier precipitation and interrupting the field spraying. Fields were moving out of the fair condition and into the good range. Harvest began in early July and progressed smoothly except for some early August rain. Late in August, rain found some growers

with unharvested fields concerned about sprouting while welcoming the moisture for the summerfallow.

Pacific Northwest - The total wheat production for the Pacific Northwest for 2004 was set at 301.2 million bushels, 9 percent above 2003. Winter wheat production reached 227.8 million bushels, 2 percent above last year, and spring wheat production was a reported 73.4 million bushels, compared with 55.0 million bushels last year. Yields averaged 79.0 bushels per acre in Idaho.

White continues to be the major class of wheat in **Washington** with 96 percent of the winter wheat crop classified as white, 2 percentage points above 2003. White spring wheat contributed 66 percent of the production. **Nationally**, white wheat production was 306.4 million bushels, or 14.2 percent of the national total of all wheat production.

Barley - Barley production in **Washington** totaled 17.2 million bushels, an increase of 18 percent from last year. Although harvested acres declined from 310,000 acres in 2003 to 245,000 acres in 2004, yields jumped to 70.0 bushels per acre. This average yield was 23 bushels per acre above 2003. The **Pacific Northwest** barley production totaled 81.8 million bushels, up 24 percent from last year. Oregon's yields rose 9 bushels per acre for a total production of 4.82 million bushels while Idaho's increased to 92.0 bushels per acre for a total production of 59.8 million bushels. The **National** production for 2004 barley was 280.1 million bushels, 1 percent above 2003.

Oat - Oat production in **Washington** totaled 616,000 bushels, down 134,000 bushels from 2003. Producers in the State averaged 88.0 bushels per acre, up 38 bushels from a year ago. **Nationally**, oat production was estimated at 116.5 million bushels, down 19 percent from last year's 144.4 million bushels.