

Field Crops

Hay: Arizona's 2008 alfalfa yield again led the nation at 8.6 tons per acre, a record high yield for Arizona. California was the next closest state, at 7.0 tons per acre. Nationally, alfalfa yields averaged 3.32 tons per acre. Arizona's harvested acres, at 260,000, increased by 5,000 from a year earlier. Total production was a record high 2.24 million tons. Acreage of other hay cut was down 5,000 acres, for a total of 40,000 acres. Production was set at 147,000 tons.

Preliminary marketing year average prices for alfalfa increased to \$186.00 per ton from \$151.00 the previous year. Prices for other hay during the marketing year averaged \$167.00, an increase of \$30.00 from the previous year.

Cotton: Upland, at 135,000 planted acres, was down 35,000 from 2007. Yield averaged 1,462 pounds per acre, down 7 pounds from last year's record high yield. Upland production was estimated at 405,000 bales, the lowest production since 1948. American-Pima, at 800 acres planted, was down 1,700 acres. Total American-Pima production was 800 bales, the lowest since 1947.

The average price for upland through December, 2008 was \$0.570 per pound. U.S. prices through December, 2008 were \$0.552 for Upland and \$1.131 for American-Pima.

Corn: Acreage, at 50,000 acres planted, decreased 5,000 acres from 2007. Of the 50,000 acres, 15,000 were harvested for grain and 35,000 for silage. The average yield for grain, at 9,240 pounds per acre, was down 1,120 pounds from a year ago. Prices received for grain corn increased to \$201.80 per ton, up \$22.20 from the previous year.

Wheat: Acreage planted to Durum wheat increased to 150,000 acres from 83,000 acres in 2007. Average yield, at 5,880 pounds per acre, was down 120 pounds per acre from the 2007 crop. The average price received, at \$276.70 per ton, was up \$39.70 from last year. Nationally, the price was up \$2.60, to \$330.70 per ton.

Other wheat planted acreage, at 13,000 acres, was up 7,000 acres from the previous year. Yield averaged 5,700 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds from a year earlier. Other wheat is included in winter wheat nationally. The national average yield was 2,832 pounds. Prices averaged \$246.70 per ton in Arizona and \$220.00 nationally.

Barley: Planted acreage increased to 42,000 acres, up 9,000 acres from the previous year. Of those 35,000 acres, 40,000 acres were harvested for grain, yielding a record high 5,760 pounds per acre, netting a production of 115,200 tons. North Dakota was the top producer with 2.07 million tons.

The marketing year average price in Arizona, at \$206.20 per ton, was up \$39.50 from a year earlier. Nationally, barley prices averaged \$214.60 a ton.

Sorghum: Planted acreage in the State was 57,000, with 27,000 acres harvested for grain and 30,000 acres for silage. Average yield for grain, at 5,040 pounds per acre, was unchanged from a year ago. Annual average price received for grain decreased to \$172.00 per ton, up from last year's \$168.00.

Field Crop Value of Production 2008 Season (Million Dollars)

