ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY – 2020

ARIZONA HIGHLIGHTS

The 2020 corn for grain crop is estimated at 5.86 million bushels, 31 percent below last year’s production of 8.55 million bushels, according to the December 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The average yield of 202.0 bushels per acre is 29.0 bushels per acre below last year. Area harvested for grain in 2020, at 29,000 acres, is 8,000 acres below last year. Acreage cut for corn silage is estimated at 45,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year, with production estimated at 1.31 million tons compared with 1.45 million tons produced last year.

Arizona’s barley seeded area, at 12,000 acres, is down 6,000 acres from last year and is the third lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area, at 8,000 acres, is down 7,000 acres from 2019, and is equal to the lowest harvested acreage on record, last seen in 1928. Barley yield, at 122.0 bushels per acre, is down 4.0 bushels per acre from last year. Barley production in 2020 is estimated at 976,000 bushels, down 48 percent from the previous year.

Durum wheat production in Arizona, estimated at 4.26 million bushels, is up 17 percent from 2019. Durum wheat producers seeded 44,000 acres for harvest in 2020, up from 36,000 acres seeded for the previous year’s crop. Acreage harvested for grain increased 8,000 acres from last year to 43,000 acres in 2020. Durum wheat yield, at 99.0 bushels per acre, is down 5.0 bushels per acre from last year.

All hay production for 2020 is estimated at 2.46 million tons, down 2 percent from the 2019 total. Alfalfa hay production is estimated at 2.21 million tons from 260,000 acres harvested, down 114,000 tons from 2019. Average yield for the 2020 crop is 8.50 tons per acre, 0.20 ton per acre above last year. All other hay production totaled 250,000 tons from 50,000 acres harvested, up 65,000 tons from 2019. The average yield of 5.00 tons per acre is 0.90 ton per acre above last year. New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures in Arizona are estimated at 40,000 acres, down 27 percent from 2019.

As of December 1, producers in Arizona were storing 300,000 tons of all hay, up 7 percent from the 280,000 tons stored last year.

Based on December 1 conditions, all cotton production in Arizona is expected to total 339,000 480-lb bales, 14 percent below 2019. Area of all cotton harvested, at 129,500 acres, is down 36,000 acres from last year. The all cotton yield is forecast at 1,257 pounds per acre, up 119 pounds from 2019. Upland cotton planted acres are estimated at 125,000 for 2020, with 123,000 acres expected to be harvested. Upland cotton production is expected to total 325,000 bales, down 14 percent from the 2019 crop. Yield is estimated at 1,268 pounds per acre, up 114 pounds from last year. American Pima planted cotton acres are estimated at 6,500 for 2020, with 6,500 acres expected to be harvested. Arizona’s 2020 American Pima production is estimated at 14,000 bales with an average yield of 1.034 pounds per acre.

Durum wheat seedings for 2021 are estimated at 40,000 acres, a 4,000 acre decrease from 2020.

Arizona’s 2020-2021 lemon production is forecast at 1.90 million boxes, up 6 percent from last season.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in 2020 was estimated at 14.2 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the 2019 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at 172.0 bushels per acre, 4.5 bushels above the 2019 yield of 167.5 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 82.5 million acres, up 1 percent from the 2019 estimate. Corn silage production was estimated at 138 million tons for 2020, up 3 percent from the 2019 estimate. The United States silage yield was estimated at 20.5 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from 2019. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.72 million acres, up 2 percent from the 2019 estimate.
Barley production was estimated at 165 million bushels, down 4 percent from the revised 2019 total of 172 million bushels. The average yield, at 77.5 bushels per acre, was down 0.2 bushel from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.62 million acres in 2020, down 5 percent from 2019. Harvested area, at 2.13 million acres, was down 4 percent from 2019.

All wheat production totaled 1.83 billion bushels in 2020, down 5 percent from the 2019 total of 1.93 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 36.7 million acres, down 2 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 49.7 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2019 by type were: winter wheat, 1.17 billion bushels, down 11 percent; other spring wheat, 586 million bushels, up 4 percent; and Durum wheat, 68.8 million bushels, up 28 percent.

Durum wheat production for 2020 was estimated at 68.8 million bushels, up 28 percent from the 2019 total of 54.0 million bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 1.66 million acres, up 41 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 41.4 bushels per acre, down 4.4 bushels from the 2019 yield.

All hay stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2020 totaled 84.0 million tons, down 1 percent from December 1, 2019, which is the third lowest December 1 stocks since 1977. Disappearance from May 1, 2020 - December 1, 2020 totaled 63.2 million tons, up 7 percent from the same period in 2019.

All dry hay for 2020 was estimated at 126.8 million tons, down 2 percent from the 2019 total. Area harvested was estimated at 52.2 million acres, down less than 1 percent from 2019. The average yield, at 2.43 tons per acre, was down 0.03 ton from 2019. Production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures in 2020 was estimated at 53.1 million tons, down 3 percent from the 2019 total. Harvested area, at 16.2 million acres, was 3 percent below 2019. Harvested area has been trending lower, but has leveled off in recent years. Average yield was estimated at 3.27 tons per acre, down 0.01 ton from 2019. Production of all other hay in 2020 totaled 73.7 million tons, down less than 1 percent from the 2019 total. Harvested area, at 36.0 million acres, was up 1 percent from 2019. Average yield was estimated at 2.05 tons per acre, down 0.02 ton from 2019. This is the fifth highest yield on record, with four of the five occurring in the last six years. Growers seeded 2.18 million acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2020, down 12 percent from 2019. New plantings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures are normally harvested for the first time in the year following planting.

Production of all cotton is estimated at 15.0 million 480-pound bales, down 25 percent from 2019. The United States yield is estimated at 825 pounds per acre, up 2 pounds from last year. Harvested area, at 8.70 million acres, is down 25 percent from last year. Upland cotton production was estimated at 14.4 million 480-pound bales, down 25 percent from the previous year. The United States yield for Upland cotton is estimated at 813 pounds per acre, up 3 pounds from 2019. Upland planted area, estimated at 11.9 million acres, was down 12 percent from the previous year. Harvested area, at 8.51 million acres, was down 25 percent from the previous year. American Pima producers planted 202,500 acres in 2020, down 11 percent from 2019. Harvested area, at 194,500 acres, was down 13 percent from the previous year. Production was estimated at 552 thousand 480-pound bales, down 19 percent from 2019. The United States yield was estimated at 1362 pounds per acre, down 110 pounds from the previous year.

Durum wheat seedings in Arizona and California for 2021 harvest are estimated at a combined 70,000 acres, down 5 percent from 2020 and 41 percent below 2019.

The 2020-2021 United States lemon crop is forecast at 1.04 million tons, up 11 percent from previous forecast but down 6 percent from last season’s final utilization.

For a full copy of the Crop Production 2020 Summary report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.