

CORN There were 185,000 acres harvested for grain in 2007 which yielded a low 97 bushels per acre due to the drought. This compares with 161,000 acres harvested in 2006, at an average yield of 145 bushels per acre. Even though acres harvested was up 24,000, the production total in 2007, at 17.9 million bushels, was down 23 percent from 2006. Prices for corn were up from an average of \$3.61 per bushel in 2006 to an average of \$4.76 per bushel in 2007. This was a new record high corn price. The sharp increase in price offset the lower production as the total value of the corn crop rose 1% from 2006, from \$84.3 million to \$85.4 million. Delaware farmers also harvested 7,000 acres of corn for silage, producing 70,000 tons as livestock feed. This was a significant decrease from the 160,000 tons produced in 2006, when silage was harvested from 8,000 acres as yield dropped from 20 to 10 tons per acre.

WHEAT There were 55,000 acres of wheat harvested from the 57,000 acres planted which was 9,000 acres (19 percent) more than planted acres for the 2006 crop. Yield per acre at 68 bushels, was up 1 bushel per acre from 2006. Wheat production in 2007 at 3.74 million bushels was up 24 percent from 2006. The value of the wheat crop more than doubled from 2006 to \$20.8 million. Price per bushel was a record high \$5.56, up \$2.29 from the \$3.27 level in 2006. The previous record high price per bushel was \$4.33 in 1996.

BARLEY acres planted in 2007 at 21,000 was down 22 percent from the 27,000 acres in 2006. Acreage harvested decreased 5,000 from 24,000 acres in 2006 to 19,000 acres. Yield per acre decreased 2 bushels from 2006 to 78 bushels. The acreage harvested decrease of 5,000 coupled with the yield decrease of 2 bushels resulted in production of 1.48 million bushels, down 22 percent from 2006. Value of the crop increased 25 percent from a year earlier to \$3.7 million. The season average price received for the 2007 crop at \$2.49 per bushel was the highest price since 1996 and compares with \$1.54 in 2006.

HAY production suffered from the drought as production dropped 28 percent from 40,000 tons in 2006 to only 29,000 tons in 2007. There were 15,000 acres harvested which was 1,000 acres more than in 2006, but the yield dropped from 2.86 tons per acre to only 1.93 tons in 2007. This was the lowest yield since 1966. The average price received per ton in 2007 at \$214.00 was a new record high, shattering the previous record of \$165.00 in 2005. The sharp increase in price offset the sharp decrease in production as the 2007 crop value at \$6.2 million was unchanged from 2006.

VEGETABLES Growing conditions for vegetables during the 2007 crop year were favorable. The majority of vegetable acres are irrigated, so the drought did not effect production output. The value of all vegetable production in 2007 was \$46.8 million, up 11 percent from 2006.

Vegetable acreage planted for fresh market utilization in 2007 at 11,060 was down 1,010 acres (8 percent) from 2006. Harvested acreage, at 10,630, was up 4 percent from 2006. Total production of crops for the fresh market in 2007 was 219.2 million pounds, up 12 percent from 2006. The value of fresh market vegetable production was \$29.3 million, up 10 percent. Acreage planted to processing vegetable crops, in 2007 at 32,100 acres, was down 1,300 from 2006. Vegetable acreage harvested for processing at 32,000 was down 900 acres from 2006. Processing vegetable yields were below average in 2006 for green peas and lima beans, but above average for sweet corn. Production of processing vegetable crops totaled 89.8 thousand tons in 2007, up 12 percent from 2006. Prices received for the major processing vegetable crops were all above average as processors had to compete for acreage given the prices for corn and soybeans. The value of production at \$17.5 million in 2007 was up 13 percent from 2006.