



Press Release

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Idaho Dry Bean Production Up

Idaho dry bean production for 2012 is forecast to be 3.02 million cwt, up 61 percent from last year's 1.88 million cwt, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized, this would be the largest dry bean crop in Idaho since 1990. Yields are expected to average 2,100 pounds per acre, an increase of 100 pounds per acre from 2011 and up 200 pounds per acre from the August forecast. Harvested acreage is expected to total 144,000 acres, up 53 percent from last year's 94,000 acres harvested. Dry Bean estimates include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. Production of alfalfa hay is estimated at 4.00 million tons, down 7 percent from 2011. Harvested acreage, at 1.00 million acres, is the same as last year. Other hay production is estimated at 874,000 tons from 380,000 harvested acres, up from 770,000 tons from 350,000 harvested acres in 2011. Idaho sugarbeet production for 2012 is forecast to be 6.44 million tons, up 6 percent from the 6.05 million tons a year ago. Yield of 35.4 tons per acre is up from last year's 34.4 tons per acre and is a record high. Harvested area of 182,000 acres is up from the 176,000 acres harvested in 2011. Corn planted for 2012 is estimated at 360,000 acres, up from 350,000 acres the previous year and a new record high for Idaho. Of the 360,000 acres planted, 120,000 acres are expected to be harvested for grain, unchanged from last year. Production of canola is expected to total 85.1 million pounds, up 119 percent from last year. Harvested acreage, at 37,000 acres, is up from last year's 18,500 acres.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 31.0 million cwt for 2012, up 56 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.73 million acres, up 44 percent from the previous year. Harvested area is forecast at 1.69 million acres, up 46 percent from the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,836 pounds per acre, an increase of 120 pounds from 2011. Production of alfalfa hay is forecast at 55.6 million tons, up 1 percent from the August forecast, but down 15 percent from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 66.4 million tons, up 1 percent from the August forecast and last year. U.S. sugarbeet production for the 2012 crop year is forecast at 35.6 million tons, up slightly from the September 1 forecast and up 23 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres, up slightly from the previous forecast. Expected yield is forecast at 29.3 tons per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast but 5.5 tons higher than last year. The first canola production forecast for 2012 is 2.48 billion pounds, up 62 percent from 2011. U.S. corn production is forecast at 10.7 billion bushels, down slightly from the September forecast and down 13 percent from the 2011 production estimate.

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