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Minnesota AgriView

Vol 18-07 April 5, 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Minnesota farmers intend to plant 7.50 million acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2018. This is 550,000 acres fewer than last year. If realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 2006.

Farmers in Minnesota intend to plant 7.90 million acres of **soybeans**, down 3 percent from 2017.

Spring wheat producers intend to plant 1.60 million acres, up 440,000 acres from last year.

Minnesota **oat** producers intend to plant 230,000 acres of oats, up 60,000 acres from 2017.

Minnesota farmers intend to plant 65,000 acres of **barley**, down 15,000 acres from the previous year.

Minnesota farmers intend to harvest 1.50 million acres of **all hay** in 2018, up 9 percent from last year.

Minnesota farmers intend to plant 422,700 acres of **sugarbeets** this year, up 2,700 acres from 2017.

Producers in Minnesota intend to plant 44,000 acres of **sunflowers** in 2018, up 5,300 acres from 2017. **Oil sunflower** intentions, at 40,000 acres, are 6,000 acres higher than in 2017. **Non-oil sunflower** planting intentions, at 4,000 acres, are down 15 percent from last year.

The *Prospective Plantings* report provides the first official, survey-based estimates of U.S. farmers' 2018 planting intentions. NASS's acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March from a sample of more than 82,900 farm operators across the United States with more than 3,200 from Minnesota. Actual plantings will depend upon weather, economic conditions and the availability of production inputs at the time producers make their final planting decisions.

Area Planted – Minnesota and United States: 2016-2018

Crop	Minnesota				United States			
	2016	2017	2018 [1]	'18 as % of '17	2016	2017	2018 [1]	'18 as % of '17
	(1,000 acres)	*(1,000 acres)*	*(1,000 acres)*	*(percent)*	*(1,000 acres)*	*(1,000 acres)*	*(1,000 acres)*	*(percent)*
Barley	95	80	65	81	3,059	2,481	2,286	92
Canola	29	36	45	125	1,714	2,077	2,076	100
Corn, all	8,450	8,050	7,500	93	94,004	90,167	88,026	98
Dry edible beans	155	170	185	109	1,662	2,092	2,031	97
Hay, all [2]	1,520	1,380	1,500	109	53,481	53,784	53,726	100
Oats	210	170	230	135	2,829	2,588	2,716	105
Soybeans	7,550	8,150	7,900	97	83,433	90,142	88,982	99
Sugarbeets	437	420	423	101	1,163	1,131	1,113	98
Sunflowers, all	80	39	44	114	1,597	1,403	1,385	99
Sunflowers, oil	66	34	40	118	1,418	1,216	1,235	102
Sunflowers, non-oil	14	5	4	85	179	187	150	80
Wheat, all	1,321	1,170	1,611	138	50,119	46,012	47,339	103
Wheat, spring	1,310	1,160	1,600	138	11,555	11,009	12,627	115
Wheat, winter [3]	11	10	11	110	36,152	32,696	32,708	100

[1] Intended plantings in 2018 as indicated by reports from farmers. [2] Intended area harvested. [3] Includes area planted in preceding fall.

U.S. corn planted area for all purposes in 2018 is estimated at 88.0 million acres, down 2 percent or 2.14 million acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be down or unchanged in 33 of the 48 estimating States.

U.S. soybean planted area for 2018 is estimated at 89.0 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage intentions are down or unchanged in 20 of the 31 estimating States.

All wheat planted area in the U.S. for 2018 is estimated at 47.3 million acres, up 3 percent from 2017. This represents the second lowest all wheat planted area on record since records began in 1919. The 2018 winter wheat planted area, at 32.7 million acres, is up slightly from both last year and the previous estimate. Of this total, about 23.2 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 5.85 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.64 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2018 is estimated at 12.6 million acres, up 15 percent from 2017. Of this total, about 12.1 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Durum planted area for 2018 is estimated at 2.00 million acres, down 13 percent from the previous year.

GRAIN STOCKS

Corn stored in all positions in Minnesota on March 1, 2018, totaled 1.08 billion bushels, up 2 percent from March 1, 2017. Of the total stocks, 71 percent were stored on-farm. The December 2017 - February 2018 indicated disappearance totaled 439 million bushels, 3 percent more than the 426 million bushels from the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions in Minnesota on March 1, 2018, totaled 216 million bushels, 20 percent above the 180 million bushels on hand March 1, 2017. Of the total stocks, 53 percent were stored on-farm. Indicated disappearance for December 2017 - February 2018 was 92.5 million bushels, 3 percent less than the 94.9 million bushels from the same quarter last year.

All wheat stored in all positions in Minnesota on March 1, 2018, totaled 58.2 million bushels, 9 percent less than March 1, 2017. Of the total stocks, 50 percent were stored on-farm. Indicated disappearance for December 2017 - February 2018 was 22.6 million bushels, 24 percent below the 29.8 million bushels from the same quarter last year.

Barley stored in all positions in Minnesota on March 1, 2018, totaled 10.6 million bushels, 19 percent more than the stocks on March 1, 2017. Of the total stocks, 18 percent were stored on-farm.

Grain Stocks by Position – Minnesota and United States: March 1, 2017 and 2018

Position and Grain	Minnesota			United States		
	March 1, 2017	March 1, 2018	'18 as % of '17	March 1, 2017	March 1, 2018	'18 as % of '17
	(1,000 bushels)	*(1,000 bushels)*	*(percent)*	*(1,000 bushels)*	*(1,000 bushels)*	*(percent)*
On-Farm						
Barley	1,900	1,900	100	56,490	48,540	86
Corn	770,000	770,000	100	4,908,000	5,002,000	102
Oats	3,100	2,900	94	22,320	17,240	77
Soybeans	93,000	115,000	124	668,500	855,000	128
Wheat	32,000	29,000	91	349,500	259,310	74
Off-Farm [1]						
Barley	6,964	8,687	125	88,211	80,811	92
Corn	282,139	308,400	109	3,713,992	3,886,396	105
Oats	16,024	(D)	(X)	40,885	37,826	93
Soybeans	87,332	101,340	116	1,070,433	1,252,146	117
Wheat	31,800	29,191	92	1,309,175	1,235,059	94
Total all positions						
Barley	8,864	10,587	119	144,701	129,351	89
Corn	1,052,139	1,078,400	102	8,621,992	8,888,396	103
Oats	19,124	(D)	(X)	63,205	55,066	87
Soybeans	180,332	216,340	120	1,738,933	2,107,146	121
Wheat	63,800	58,191	91	1,658,675	1,494,369	90

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (X) Not Applicable. [1] Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2018 totaled 8.89 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2017. Of the total stocks, 5.00 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.89 billion bushels, are up 5 percent from a year ago. The December 2017 - February 2018 indicated disappearance is 3.68 billion bushels, compared with 3.76 billion bushels during the same period last year.

U.S. soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2018 totaled 2.11 billion bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 2017. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 855 million bushels, up 28 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 1.25 billion bushels, are up 17 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2017 - February 2018 quarter totaled 1.05 billion bushels, down 9 percent from the same period a year earlier.

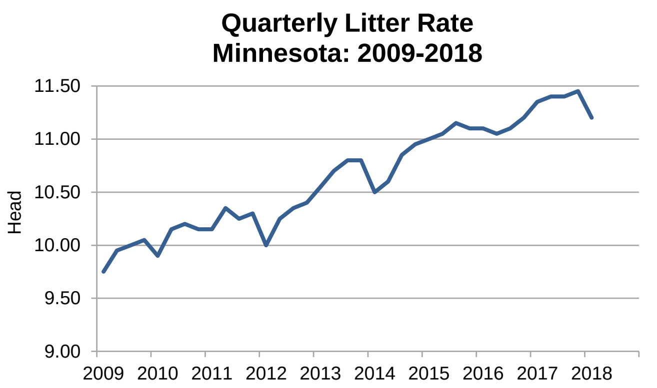
All wheat stored in all positions in the U.S. on March 1, 2018 totaled 1.49 billion bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 259 million bushels, down 26 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 1.24 billion bushels, are down 6 percent from a year ago. The December 2017 - February 2018 indicated disappearance is 379 million bushels, 10 percent below the same period a year earlier.

U.S. barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2018 totaled 129 million bushels, down 11 percent from March 1, 2017. On-farm stocks are estimated at 48.5 million bushels, 14 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 80.8 million bushels, are 8 percent below March 2017. The December 2017 - February 2018 indicated disappearance totaled 29.5 million bushels, 38 percent below the same period a year earlier.

U.S. oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2018 totaled 55.1 million bushels, 13 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2017. Of the total stocks on hand, 17.2 million bushels were stored on farms, down 23 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 37.8 million bushels, down 7 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2017 - February 2018 totaled 11.4 million bushels, 7 percent below the same period a year ago.

HOGS & PIGS

On March 1, 2018, there were 8.50 million hogs and pigs on Minnesota farms. The March 1 inventory was unchanged from the previous quarter but up 1 percent from the previous year. The December 2017-February 2018 quarterly pig crop was 3.36 million head, down 7 percent from the previous quarter but up 8 percent from last year. A total of 300,000 sows farrowed during this quarter. The average pigs saved per litter was 11.20 for the quarter. As of March 1, producers planned to farrow 295,000 sows and gilts in the March-May quarter and 310,000 head during the June-August quarter.



United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2018 was 72.9 million head. This was up 3 percent from March 1, 2017, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2017. Breeding inventory, at 6.20 million head, was up 2 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 66.7 million head, was up 3 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December-February 2018 pig crop, at 32.3 million head, was up 4 percent from 2017. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.06 million head, up 2 percent from 2017. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high of 10.58 for the December-February period, compared to 10.43 last year.

United States hog producers intend to have 3.08 million sows farrow during the March-May 2018 quarter, up 2 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2017, and up 4 percent from 2016. Intended farrowings for June-August 2018, at 3.16 million sows, are up 1 percent from 2017, and up 4 percent from 2016.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 47 percent of the total United States hog inventory, down from 48 percent the previous year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2017 through December 2017 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. The net revision made to the December 2017 all hogs and pigs inventory was 0.3 percent. The net revision made to the September 2017 all hogs and pigs inventory was less than 0.1 percent. A revision of 0.6 percent was made to the June-August 2017 pig crop.

Hogs and Pigs, Market Inventory by Weight Group – Selected States and United States: March 1, 2017 and 2018 [Data may not add to totals due to rounding.]

State	Under 50 pounds		50-119 pounds		120-179 pounds		180 pounds and over	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Illinois	1,530	1,465	1,460	1,465	920	990	800	840
Iowa	5,300	5,590	6,440	6,720	5,270	5,340	3,590	3,930
Minnesota	**2,590**	**2,620**	**2,380**	**2,400**	**1,650**	**1,760**	**1,220**	**1,150**
Missouri	1,350	1,455	515	560	400	530	390	450
Nebraska	920	1,040	735	775	650	670	580	545
North Carolina	3,140	3,250	1,860	1,720	1,800	1,690	1,520	1,340
United States	20,407	21,047	17,862	18,422	14,435	14,874	11,899	12,364

Hogs and Pigs, Breeding, Market, and Total Inventory – Selected States and United States: March 1, 2017 and 2018 [Data may not add to totals due to rounding.]

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	2017	2018	‘18 as % of ‘17	2017	2018	‘18 as % of ‘17	2017	2018	‘18 as % of ‘17
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Illinois	540	540	100	4,710	4,760	101	5,250	5,300	101
Iowa	1,000	1,020	102	20,600	21,580	105	21,600	22,600	105
Minnesota	**560**	**570**	**102**	**7,840**	**7,930**	**101**	**8,400**	**8,500**	**101**
Missouri	445	455	102	2,655	2,995	113	3,100	3,450	111
Nebraska	415	420	101	2,885	3,030	105	3,300	3,450	105
North Carolina	880	900	102	8,320	8,000	96	9,200	8,900	97
United States	6,098	6,200	102	64,603	66,708	103	70,701	72,908	103

HONEY

Honey production from producers with 5 or more colonies in Minnesota totaled 7.81 million pounds in 2017. This was a 7 percent increase from the 7.32 million pounds produced in 2016. The number of honey producing colonies in the state increased from 124,000 colonies in 2016 to 126,000 colonies in 2017. This number does not include producers with fewer than 5 colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Colonies that produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where they produced honey. Yield per colony in Minnesota averaged 62 pounds, up from 59 pounds per colony in 2016. Minnesota remains ranked seventh nationally in honey production, unchanged from 2016.

On December 15, 2017, producer honey stocks in Minnesota, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 1.02 million pounds, a 27 percent decrease from 2016. The state's 2017 honey crop was valued at $14.5 million, up 18 percent from the previous year's $12.4 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Minnesota was $1.86, up 17 cents from 2016.

United States honey production in 2017 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2016. There were 2.67 million colonies producing honey in 2017, down 4 percent from 2016. Yield per colony averaged 55.3 pounds, down 5 percent from the 58.3 pounds in 2016. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 30.6 million pounds on December 15, 2017, down 26 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

United States honey production in 2017 from producers with less than five colonies totaled 599 thousand pounds, down 22 percent from 2016. There were 20 thousand colonies from which honey was harvested in 2017, down 17 percent from 2016. The average yield was 30.0 pounds per colony in 2017, down 6 percent from the previous year.

United States honey prices decreased during 2017 to 215.6 cents per pound, up 2 percent from 211.9 cents per pound in 2016. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2016 crop reflect honey sold in 2016 and 2017. Some 2016 crop honey was sold in 2017, which caused some revisions to the 2016 crop prices.

For operations with five or more colonies, the average prices paid in 2017 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were $14, $76, and $107 respectively. The average prices paid in 2017 for operations with less than five colonies were $34 per queen, $117 per package, and $138 per nuc. For operations with five or more colonies, pollination income for 2017 was $435 million, up 29 percent from 2016. Other income from honey bees for operations with five or more colonies in 2017 was $163 million, up 10 percent from 2016.

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – Selected States and United States: 2016 and 2017

[Operations with five or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state.]

State	Producing Colonies [1]		Yield		Production		Honey Stocks Dec 15 [2]		Average Price per Pound [3]		Value of Production [4]	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(1,000)		*(pounds)*		*(1,000 lbs)*				*(cents)*		*(1,000 dollars)*	
California	310	335	36	41	11,160	13,735	2,009	2,198	204	209	22,766	28,706
Florida	215	205	50	43	10,750	8,815	538	529	243	240	26,123	21,156
Georgia	96	99	39	32	3,744	3,168	899	190	269	296	10,071	9,377
Iowa	37	35	48	58	1,776	2,030	746	1,035	208	222	3,694	4,507
Louisiana	50	43	86	81	4,300	3,483	301	279	194	188	8,342	6,548
Michigan	89	87	60	45	5,340	3,915	1,709	822	237	241	12,656	9,435
Minnesota	**124**	**126**	**59**	**62**	**7,316**	**7,812**	**1,390**	**1,016**	**169**	**186**	**12,364**	**14,530**
Montana	159	145	77	72	12,243	10,440	3,183	2,506	177	230	21,670	24,012
New York	64	57	57	56	3,648	3,192	1,167	766	319	301	11,637	9,608
North Dakota	485	455	78	74	37,830	33,670	6,809	4,377	185	189	69,986	63,636
South Dakota ...	280	255	71	57	19,880	14,535	12,127	6,541	176	191	34,989	27,762
Texas	133	120	70	66	9,310	7,920	2,607	2,297	208	211	19,365	16,711
Wisconsin	54	53	62	56	3,348	2,968	1,205	683	267	277	8,939	8,221
United States[5 6]..	2,775	2,669	58	55	161,882	147,638	41,253	30,577	212	216	343,028	318,308

[1] Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was harvested during the year. It is possible to harvest honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year. [2] Stocks held by producers. [3] Average price per pound based on expanded sales. [4] Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound. [5] Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production. [6] United States value of production will not equal summation of states.