The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the *Crop Production Annual Summary*, wrapping up the estimates season for crop year 2021. Every growing season has its challenges and this year was no exception. The worsening drought was a developing story all summer as the Drought Monitor maps illustrate.

Northwest and central Minnesota counties experienced the worst drought conditions while the southern tier of counties were somewhat dry but largely escaped severe drought with more frequent and timely rains.

The spring planting season proceeded at a slightly quicker than normal pace. Spring wheat planting was virtually complete by May 9 and corn and soybean planting were wrapped up by the end of May. Crop development followed that general trend remaining close to the previous year and ahead of the 5-year average throughout the summer.

Crop condition ratings suffered as topsoil and subsoil moisture declined without normally expected rainfall. However, growing degree days remained slightly above average throughout the growing season supporting crop development. Rainfall in late August and early September relieved the extreme and severe drought conditions across much of the southern corn and soybean producing areas.
Corn for grain production in Minnesota for 2021 was estimated at 1.40 billion bushels. Current year production was down 3 percent from the previous year’s 1.43 billion bushels. Minnesota's corn for grain yield was estimated at 178.0 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 7.84 million acres, 330,000 acres above 2020. Corn planted for all purposes in 2021 was estimated at 8.40 million acres.
U.S. Corn for grain production in 2021 was estimated at 15.1 billion bushels, up 7 percent from the 2020 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at a record high 177.0 bushels per acre, 5.6 bushels above the 2020 yield of 171.4 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 85.4 million acres, up 4 percent from the 2020 estimate.

Estimated yields in 2021 were up from the previous year across most of the Eastern Corn Belt, Northeast, and most of the Southeast. Record yields were estimated in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The 2021 corn objective yield data indicated the third highest number of ears per acre, since 2012, for the combined 10 objective yield States (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).
Soybean production in Minnesota was estimated at 356 million bushels in 2021. This was down 3 percent from last year's 369 million bushels. The Minnesota soybean crop yielded 47.0 bushels per acre in 2021. The harvested acreage of 7.58 million was up 200,000 acres from 2020. Soybean planted acreage, at 7.65 million, was up 200,000 acres from 2020.

### 2021 Soybean Forecasts and Final Estimates – Minnesota

**March - Final**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planted</td>
<td>(000) Ac</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>7,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested</td>
<td>(000) Ac</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>7,630</td>
<td>7,630</td>
<td>7,630</td>
<td>7,630</td>
<td>7,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yield</td>
<td>Bu/Ac</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>47.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>Mil Bu</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>328.1</td>
<td>358.6</td>
<td>373.9</td>
<td>373.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U.S. Soybean production in 2021 totaled a record 4.44 billion bushels, up 5 percent from 2020. The average yield per acre was estimated at 51.4 bushels, up 0.4 bushel from 2020. Harvested area was up 5 percent from 2020 to 86.3 million acres.

Record high yields occurred in Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The 2021 soybean objective yield survey data indicated that final average pod counts were lower than 2020 in the combined eleven objective yield States. Compared with final counts for 2020, pod counts were down in 6 of the 11 published States. A decrease of more than 100 pods per 18 square feet from 2020's final pod count occurred in Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, and South Dakota, and a decrease of more than 400 pods per 18 square feet occurred in North Dakota.
Spring wheat production in Minnesota was estimated at 55.7 million bushels, down 23 percent from 2020 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service - Small Grains 2021 Summary. Planted area, at 1.21 million acres, was down 15 percent from last year. Spring wheat harvested area for grain was 1.16 million acres, down 15 percent from last year. Spring wheat yield, at 48.0 bushels per acre, was down 5.0 bushels per acre from last year.
U.S. All Wheat production totaled 1.65 billion bushels in 2021, down 10 percent from the 2020 total of 1.83 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 37.2 million acres, up 1 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 44.3 bushels per acre, down 5.4 bushels from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2020 by type were: winter wheat, 1.28 billion bushels, up 9 percent; other spring wheat, 331 million bushels, down 44 percent; and Durum wheat, 37.3 million bushels, down 46 percent.

U.S. Other Spring Wheat production for 2021 was estimated at 331 million bushels, down 44 percent from the 2020 total of 588 million bushels. Harvested area totaled 10.2 million acres, down 16 percent from 2020. The United States yield was estimated at 32.6 bushels per acre, down 16.0 bushel from the record high of 48.6 bushels per acre in 2020. Of the total production, 297 million bushels were Hard Red Spring wheat, down 44 percent from the 2020 total.
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures for hay production in Minnesota was estimated at 1.74 million tons, down 35 percent from 2020. Producers averaged 2.60 tons per acre, down 1.00 ton per acre from 2020. Harvested acres were down 70,000 from last year, to 670,000 acres. Minnesota producers seeded 100,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures in 2021, down 41 percent from 2020. Other hay production was estimated at 588,000 tons, down 33 percent from 2020. Producers averaged 1.40 tons per acre, down 0.40 ton from the 2020 yield. Harvested acres of other hay, at 420,000, were down 70,000 acres from 2020.