

Cropsrops

The lack of rainfall throughout the summer and fall took a toll on the 2002 corn and soybean crops. Persistent dry weather caused poor pollination and stunted crop development in some fields. The limited amount of rain that fell in the late fall came too late to boost yields. Drought conditions did have an effect on the quality and the number of cuttings producers were able to get from their hay fields. Regrowth was extremely slow because of the heat and lack of rainfall. The hot and dry conditions during June and July provided excellent harvest conditions for small grains, with average to above average yields reported.

Corn planted in 2002 totaled 90 thousand acres, 70 thousand of which were harvested for grain. Yield decreased 54 bushels to 58 bushels per acre. This decrease in yield lowered production by 3.33 million bushels to a level of 4.06 million bushels. Acres harvested for silage increased by 5 thousand acres to 18 thousand. Silage yield was down 6 tons per acre from the previous year to 10 tons per acre. Production was 180 thousand tons, 13 percent lower than in 2001. Growers received \$2.75 per bushel for their grain, an increase of 66 cents per bushel from 2001's price of \$2.09 per bushel. The total crop value for corn for grain decreased by 28 percent from 2001's \$15.5 million to \$11.2 million in 2002.

Soybean planted acreage decreased by 3 thousand to 100 thousand acres while harvested acreage decreased by 4 thousand to 97 thousand acres for 2002. Soybean yield decreased 8 bushels per acre from last year to 23 bushels per acre in 2002. Production decreased to 2.23 million bushels from 2001's 3.13 million bushels. There was an increase of \$1.35 in the price received in 2002 to \$5.50 per bushel, compared to 2001's return of \$4.15 per bushel. Total crop value decreased by 6 percent from 2001's \$13.0 million to \$12.3 million in 2002.

The 38 thousand acres planted to winter wheat in 2002 were 7 thousand more than in 2001. Harvested acreage was estimated at 32 thousand, an increase of 5 thousand acres above 2001's harvested acres. Yield at 58 bushels per acre was 13 bushels per acre more than the previous year. Production at 1.86 million bushels was up 53 percent from 2001. The season

average price of \$3.00 was 70 cents more than the price in 2001. Total crop value nearly doubled from 2001's \$2.80 million to \$5.57 million in 2002.

Barley planted and harvested acres decreased by 1 thousand acres to 4 and 3 thousand, respectively, in 2002. Yield, at 74 bushels per acre, was up 20 bushels per acre from 2001. Production increased by 3 percent from 2001 to 222 thousand bushels. The prices received by growers increased by 10 cents from 2001's \$1.25 per bushel to \$1.35 per bushel in 2002. The value of barley produced increased 11 percent from 2001 to \$300 thousand.

Acres of hay harvested decreased by 5 thousand acres to 115 thousand in 2002. Alfalfa hay decreased by 5 thousand acres to 25 thousand acres, while other hay remained unchanged from 2001 at 90 thousand acres in 2002. Yield for alfalfa hay and other hay decreased by 12 percent to 3.0 and 1.5 tons per acre, respectively, in 2002. The overall yield was 1.83 tons per acre. Alfalfa production was 75 thousand tons and other hay production was 135 thousand tons; the resulting total hay production was 210 thousand tons. The season average price for all hay increased by \$1.00 per ton, from 2001's \$111, to \$112 in 2002. Overall, total crop value decreased by 18 percent in 2002 to \$23.4 million.

Potato planted and harvested acreage increased 100 acres to 2,600 acres each. Yield was up 8 percent at 275 hundredweight per acre in 2002 from 2001's 255 hundredweight per acre. Total production was up 12 percent from 2001 to 715 thousand hundredweight. The season average price of \$8.20 was \$2.20 more than 2001's \$6.00 per hundredweight. Total crop value increased by 53 percent to \$5.86 million in 2002.

Sweet potatoes planted and harvested acreage remained unchanged at 1,200. Yield was 125 hundredweight per acre, an increase of 19 percent from last year. Total production increased by 24 thousand hundredweight to 150 thousand hundredweight. The season average price of \$23.20 was \$3.60 more than 2001's \$19.60 per hundredweight. Total crop value increased by 41 percent to \$3.48 million.