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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

North Dakota Producers intend to plant an estimated 6.90 million acres of other spring wheat in 2005, up from 6.20 million acres planted in 2004. The previous high was 7.10 million acres planted in 2001. Area planted to durum wheat is expected to total 1.85 million acres, up from 1.75 million acres last year. Barley producers intend to plant an estimated 1.20 million acres, down from 1.60 million acres last year.

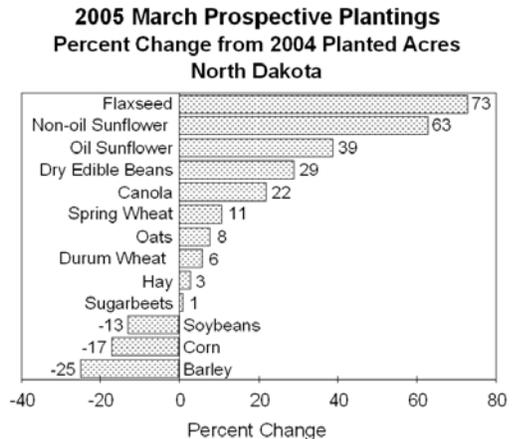
All corn planting intentions are estimated at 1.50 million acres, down from 1.80 million acres in 2004, which was a record high.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 3.25 million acres, down from 3.75 million acres in 2004. Dry edible bean acreage intentions are estimated at 720,000 acres, up from 560,000 acres planted in 2004. Canola planting intentions are 950,000 acres, up from 780,000 acres last year. Oil sunflower planting intentions are 1.00 million acres, up from 720,000 acres in 2004. Non-oil sunflower planting intentions are 260,000 acres, up from 160,000 acres planted last year. Sugarbeet growers expect to plant an estimated 259,000 acres, up from 256,000 acres last year.

United States Other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 14.4 million, up 4 percent from last year. Of the total, about 13.7 million acres are hard red spring wheat. Area planted to durum wheat is intended to total 2.61 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous year. Barley growers intend to plant 3.97 million acres for 2005, down 12 percent from last year, if realized.

Growers intend to plant 81.4 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, up 1 percent from 2004 and 4 percent above 2003. Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 73.9 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from the record acreage planted in 2004. Prospective 2005 planting of dry beans in the U.S. totals 1.66 million acres, up 23 percent from last year and 18 percent above 2 years ago.

Canola producers intend to plant 1.05 million acres in 2005, up 21 percent from 2004. Area intended for oil type varieties, at 2.19 million acres, is up 43 percent from 2004, and the non-oil varieties, estimated at 565,000 acres, are up 66 percent from last year. Area planted to sugarbeets for the 2005 crop year is expected to total 1.30 million acres, 3 percent below the 2004 planted acreage.



Prospective Plantings, March 1, 2005

Crop	North Dakota				United States			
	Area Planted			2005 as % 2004	Area Planted			2005 as % 2004
	2003	2004	Indicated 2005		2003	2004	Indicated 2005	
	--- 1,000 Acres ---			Pct	--- 1,000 Acres ---			Pct
Barley	2,050	1,600	1,200	75	5,348	4,527	3,974	88
Corn, All	1,450	1,800	1,500	83	78,603	80,930	81,413	101
Hay, All ^{1/}	2,950	2,730	2,800	103	63,383	61,916	62,940	102
Oats	620	490	530	108	4,597	4,085	4,267	104
Wheat, All	8,630	8,195	9,010	110	62,141	59,674	58,592	98
Winter	130	245	260	106	45,384	43,350	41,613	96
Durum	2,000	1,750	1,850	106	2,915	2,561	2,608	102
Other Spring	6,500	6,200	6,900	111	13,842	13,763	14,371	104
Canola	970	780	950	122	1,082	865	1,047	121
Flaxseed	560	490	850	173	595	523	919	176
Soybeans	3,150	3,750	3,250	87	73,404	75,208	73,910	98
Sunflower, All	1,210	880	1,260	143	2,344	1,873	2,750	147
Oil	1,060	720	1,000	139	1,998	1,533	2,185	143
Non-Oil	150	160	260	163	346	340	565	166
Sugarbeets	259.0	256.0	259.0	101	1,365.4	1,346.0	1,299.0	97
Dry Edible Beans	540.0	560.0	720.0	129	1,406.1	1,354.3	1,663.5	123

^{1/} Acreage for harvest.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

North Dakota

The Index of Prices Received for All Farm Products in March is 113 percent of the 1990-1992 base. This is down 6 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago. The All Crops Index, at 109 percent of the base, is down 11 percent from March 2004 while the All Livestock Index, at 124 percent, is up 12 percent from last year.

United States

The March All Farm Products Index is 118 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 4 percent from the revised February index but 2 percent below the March 2004 index. The All Crops Index is 113, up 7 percent from February but 7 percent below March 2004. The Livestock and Products Index, at 122, is up 3 percent from last month but unchanged from March 2004.

Index Numbers of Farm Prices, March 2005

Indexes and Ratios	North Dakota			United States		
	Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005
Prices Received	(1990-92 = 100)					
All Farm Products	120	112	113	121	114	118
Crops	123	108	109	121	106	113
Food Grains	126	108	110	127	109	114
Feed Grains & Hay	116	87	87	118	90	95
Oil Bearing Crops ^{1/}	145	120	127	165	99	113
Potatoes & Dry Beans ^{2/}	92	107	99	105	105	110
Livestock	111	121	124	122	119	122
Meat Animals	113	124	128	111	120	123
Dairy Products	106	105	106	118	119	119
Other Livestock Products ^{3/}	99	99	99	148	120	122
Prices Paid	---	---	---	132	135	135
Ratio ^{4/}	---	---	---	92	84	87

^{1/} Includes non-oil sunflower. ^{2/} North Dakota includes sugarbeets. ^{3/} United States excludes wool. ^{4/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received to Index of Prices Paid.

Prices Received by Farmers, March 2005

Item	Unit	North Dakota			United States			Effective U.S. Parity Price Mar 2005
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary	
		Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	
		--- Dollars ---			--- Dollars ---			- Dollars -
Wheat, All	Bu	3.95	3.39	3.45	3.83	3.36	3.53	10.00
Durum	Bu	4.15	3.65	3.55	4.14	3.71	3.64	---
Other Spring	Bu	3.90	3.35	3.45	3.90	3.50	3.65	---
Winter	Bu	3.29	2.80	2.85	3.76	3.27	3.44	---
Corn	Bu	2.62	1.63	1.65	2.75	1.95	2.03	6.71
Rye	Bu	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.40
Oats	Bu	1.40	1.21	1.20	1.60	1.66	1.60	3.99
Barley, All	Bu	2.48	2.05	1.89	2.77	2.37	2.48	6.80
Feed	Bu	1.98	1.40	1.40	2.19	1.62	1.77	---
Malting	Bu	2.65	2.26	2.05	2.97	2.64	2.76	---
Sunflower, All	Cwt	13.10	16.10	15.70	13.10	15.10	15.10	---
Oil	Cwt	12.50	14.20	13.70	---	---	---	---
Non-oil	Cwt	15.80	19.50	20.50	---	---	---	---
Baled Hay, All ^{1/}	Ton	54.00	58.00	59.00	81.80	84.70	89.10	---
Alfalfa ^{1/}	Ton	58.00	62.00	63.00	86.20	91.90	96.40	---
Other ^{1/}	Ton	40.00	44.00	46.00	72.00	70.00	70.40	---
Canola	Cwt	12.20	9.34	---	---	---	---	---
Flaxseed	Bu	6.53	11.00	11.90	6.53	11.00	11.90	13.60
Soybeans	Bu	8.59	5.34	6.10	9.28	5.42	6.28	16.20
Dry Edible Beans, All	Cwt	16.80	29.00	28.20	20.20	27.80	27.40	50.90
Navy	Cwt	17.90	25.30	---	---	---	---	---
Pinto	Cwt	16.30	30.30	---	---	---	---	---
Potatoes, All	Cwt	5.90	6.10	5.85	6.09	5.76	6.16	15.10
Fresh ^{2/}	Cwt	4.60	5.95	---	7.20	6.53	---	---
Processing	Cwt	6.00	6.10	---	5.24	5.26	---	---
Beef Cattle	Cwt	86.80	94.90	98.70	83.70	89.00	91.90	174.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	91.60	103.00	106.00	88.00	93.30	96.30	---
Cows	Cwt	48.10	55.40	57.00	46.50	52.40	53.60	---
Calves	Cwt	113.00	128.00	130.00	115.00	128.00	132.00	236.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.00	46.00	---	36.70	51.30	---	85.10
Lambs	Cwt	97.00	119.00	---	103.00	114.00	---	211.00
Hogs	Cwt	48.20	51.50	---	47.20	50.70	51.50	108.00

^{1/} Alfalfa, other and all hay are preliminary prices only. ^{2/} Fresh market prices only, includes table stock.

GRAIN STOCKS

North Dakota

All wheat stored in all positions in North Dakota on March 1, 2005 totaled 163 million bushels. This is an 8 percent increase from a year ago. All wheat stocks include durum, other spring and winter wheat. Durum wheat stocks in all positions totaled 34.5 million bushels. This is up 35 percent from a year ago, but equal to two years ago. On-farm stocks, at 25.0 million bushels, are up 32 percent from March 1, 2004, but equal to two years ago.

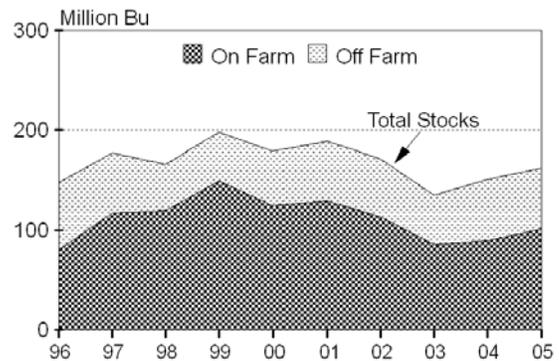
Barley stocks in all positions totaled 60.0 million bushels, up 26 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are 34.0 million bushels, up 36 percent from March 1, 2004. Corn stocks in all positions totaled 69.5 million bushels, compared to 56.5 million bushels on March 1, 2004. Of the total stocks, 48.0 million bushels are stored on farms, up from 35.0 million bushels last year. Soybean stocks in all positions totaled 30.0 million bushels, up from 14.9 million bushels a year ago and 24.8 million bushels on March 1, 2003. On-farm stocks totaled 19.0 million bushels, up from 5.20 million bushels on March 1, 2004.

United States

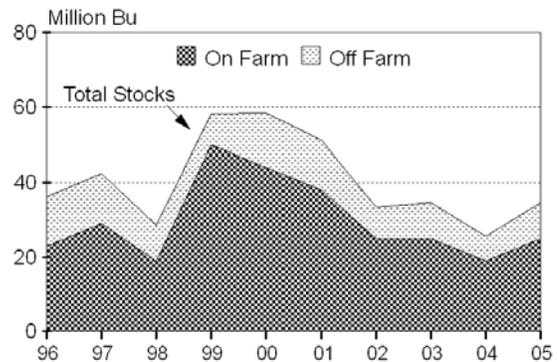
All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 981 million bushels, down 4 percent from a year ago. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 55.3 million bushels, up 25 percent from a year ago

Barley stocks in all positions totaled 191 million bushels, up 25 percent from March 1, 2004. Corn stocks in all positions totaled 6.75 billion bushels, up 28 percent from March 1, 2004. Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 52 percent from March 1, 2004.

All Wheat Stocks
North Dakota, March 1, 1996-2005



Durum Wheat Stocks
North Dakota, March 1, 1996-2005



Grain Stocks, March 1, 2005

Crop	Date	North Dakota			United States		
		On Farm	Off Farm ^{1/}	Total All Positions	On Farm	Off Farm ^{1/}	Total All Positions
		--- 1,000 Bushels ---			--- 1,000 Bushels ---		
Wheat, All ^{2/}	Mar 1, 2004	90,000	61,500	151,500	257,890	762,727	1,020,617
	Dec 1, 2004	173,000	61,000	234,000	531,020	899,306	1,430,326
	Mar 1, 2005	102,000	61,000	163,000	304,710	676,304	981,014
Durum Wheat	Mar 1, 2004	19,000	6,600	25,600	24,800	19,447	44,247
	Dec 1, 2004	38,000	9,300	47,300	51,800	26,805	78,605
	Mar 1, 2005	25,000	9,500	34,500	35,200	20,096	55,296
Barley	Mar 1, 2004	25,000	22,800	47,800	51,700	101,186	152,886
	Dec 1, 2004	60,000	23,400	83,400	130,700	115,276	245,976
	Mar 1, 2005	34,000	26,000	60,000	79,680	111,001	190,681
Oats	Mar 1, 2004	7,600	1,200	8,800	45,600	49,414	95,014
	Dec 1, 2004	10,500	700	11,200	60,400	44,513	104,913
	Mar 1, 2005	7,100	1,000	8,100	43,500	39,026	82,526
Corn	Mar 1, 2004	35,000	21,500	56,500	3,030,000	2,241,459	5,271,459
	Dec 1, 2004	75,000	30,500	105,500	6,144,000	3,306,598	9,450,598
	Mar 1, 2005	48,000	21,500	69,500	4,137,000	2,616,738	6,753,738
Soybeans	Mar 1, 2004	5,200	9,700	14,900	355,900	549,947	905,847
	Dec 1, 2004	32,000	19,850	51,850	1,300,000	1,004,640	2,304,640
	Mar 1, 2005	19,000	11,000	30,000	795,000	585,974	1,380,974
		--- 1,000 Pounds ---			--- 1,000 Pounds ---		
All Sunflower ^{3/}	Sept 1, 2004	11,200	249,000	260,200	28,586	330,538	359,124
	Mar 1, 2005	88,000	317,000	405,000	166,445	694,779	861,224
Oil Sunflower ^{3/}	Sept 1, 2004	8,500	204,000	212,500	23,386	259,923	283,309
	Mar 1, 2005	76,000	269,000	345,000	138,746	476,975	615,721
Non-oil Sunflower ^{3/}	Sept 1, 2004	2,700	45,000	47,700	5,200	70,615	75,815
	Mar 1, 2005	12,000	48,000	60,000	27,699	219,492	247,191

^{1/} Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. ^{2/} Includes durum, other spring and winter. ^{3/} March 1 estimates began 2005.

SUNFLOWER AND FLAX ACRES UP SHARPLY IN 2005

by George Flaskerud
Extension Crops Economist

North Dakota producers intend to plant a lot more sunflowers and flax, but less barley, corn and soybeans, according to the Planting Intentions Report released by USDA on March 31. They are also expected to plant more wheat, dry edible beans, canola, oats and sugarbeets. United States planting intentions were similar except for corn acres which increased slightly and sugarbeet acres which decreased several percent.

The grain stocks report, also released on March 31, indicated more corn (34 million bushels) than the trade expected, on average, but less soybeans (33 million bushels) and wheat (11 million bushels). Relative to a year ago, soybean stocks were up along with the stocks of corn, sorghum, barley and durum while the stocks of oats and all wheat were down.

On balance, the acres and stocks suggest that crop prices face considerable risk into harvest under normal growing conditions. The implication then is that producers should take advantage of the weather rallies we are likely to get to catch-up on preharvest sales. When they get the opportunity, producers should consider using futures fixed elevator contracts to sell up to the level of production covered by crop revenue insurance. Beyond that, they should use put options since production risk is a concern as well as price risk.

Other spring wheat (mostly hard red spring) acres are expected to be up, 4 percent in the United States and 11

percent in North Dakota. Durum acres are also expected to be up, 2 percent in the United States and 6 percent in North Dakota. The increase in North Dakota wheat acres was only a little greater than the amount of prevented plant wheat acres in 2004.

Soybean acres are expected to be down 2 percent in the United States. North Dakota led the decline with a 13 percent reduction. On the other hand, other oilseeds acres are expected to be up. Flax acres are expected to increase 76 percent in the United States and 74 percent in North Dakota. Canola is expected to be up about 21 percent in both the United States and North Dakota. Sunflower acres in the United States are expected to increase 43 percent for the oils and 66 percent for the non-oils. In North Dakota, acres are expected to be up 39 percent for the oils and 63 percent for the non-oils.

Barley acres are expected to drop, 12 percent in the United States and 25 percent in North Dakota. Oats acres are expected to be up, 4 percent in the United States and 8 percent in North Dakota. Corn acres are mixed, up 1 percent in the United States but down 17 percent in North Dakota. The United States corn acreage would be the largest since 1985, according to USDA.

Dry edible bean acres are expected to be up 23 percent in the United States and up 29 percent in North Dakota. Sugarbeet acres are expected to be down 3 percent in the United States but up 1 percent in North Dakota.

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