



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2018

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MAY CROP PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – On farm hay stocks, as of May 1, 2018, totaled 130,000 tons. This is 45,000 tons less than what was on hand last year at this time. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2017 - May 1, 2018, was 820,000 tons, 18 percent more than the December 1, 2016 - May 1, 2017, crop disappearance of 695,000 tons for the same period.

United States – Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.19 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 2017. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 48.1 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from last year's average yield of 50.2 bushels per acre.

All on farm hay stocks stored on United States farms May 1, 2018 totaled 15.7 million tons, down 36 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2017 - May 1, 2018 totaled 70.6 million tons, compared with 71.4 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Lower production in 2017, coupled with a higher cattle inventory as of January 1, 2018, has reduced the available hay stocks on May 1, 2018 compared to the same time last year. April snow in the Northern Plains, and dry pasture conditions stretching from the Southwest to the Southern Plains, have extended supplemental feeding, further reducing available hay stocks.

May 1 hay stocks levels were record-lows in California, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.