



News Release

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Prospective Plantings
March 31, 2008

2008 Prospective Plantings

North Dakota

North Dakota **spring wheat** producers intend to plant an estimated 6.90 million acres, up 250,000 acres from 2007, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Area planted to **durum wheat** is expected to total 1.65 million acres, up 11 percent from last year. The 2008 **winter wheat** plantings totaled 650,000 acres, up 40 percent from a year earlier. This was the highest winter wheat acreage since 1985 when 750,000 acres were planted.

Oat intentions are estimated at 350,000 acres, down 24 percent from last year. **Barley** producers intend to plant an estimated 1.55 million acres, up 5 percent from a year earlier.

Corn growers in North Dakota intend to plant an estimated 2.25 million acres, down 12 percent from last year's record high of 2.55 million acres. **Soybean** growers intend to plant 3.55 million acres, up 16 percent from 2007, but remains below 2006's record high of 3.90 million acres.

Canola planting intentions are 920,000 acres, down 15 percent from 2007. **Flaxseed** planted acreage is expected to total 330,000 acres, up 3 percent from the previous year.

Dry edible bean acreage intentions is estimated at 620,000 acres, down 10 percent from last year.

Dry edible pea planted acreage is expected to total 500,000 acres, down 3 percent from last year and 18 percent from 2006's record high of 610,000 acres. **Lentil** planted acreage is expected to total 95,000 acres, down 14 percent from 2007.

Oil sunflower planting intentions are 920,000 acres, up 1 percent from last year and the highest acreage since 2003 when 1.06 million acres were planted. **Non-oil sunflower** is expected to total 125,000 acres, down 24 percent from last year and is the lowest level since 1992 when 125,000 were planted.

Sugarbeet growers expect to plant an estimated 217,000 acres, down 14 percent from last year.

Farmers and ranchers intend to harvest 2.90 million acres of **all hay**. This is up 4 percent from last year's crop.

Estimates in this report are based on a survey conducted during the first two weeks of March with a nationwide sample of nearly 86,000 of which over 3,000 were North Dakota producers.

United States

Spring wheat growers intend to plant 14.3 million acres this year, up 8 percent from 2007. Of the total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Durum wheat** area seeded is expected to total 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from 2007. **Winter wheat** planted area is estimated at 46.8 million acres, up slightly from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report.

Oat growers intend to plant an estimated 3.42 million acres, down 9 percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record. Most of the decrease in acreage of oats is expected to be in the Great Plains States. **Barley** growers intend to plant 4.15 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest barley planted acreage on record.

Corn growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most states as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. **Soybean** growers intend to plant an estimated 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from the acreage planted in 2007.

Canola producers intend to plant 1.01 million acres in 2008, down 15 percent from 2007 and down 3 percent from 2006. **Flaxseed** producers expect to plant 360,000 acres in 2008, up 2 percent from last year but 56 percent below 2006.

Dry edible bean growers intend to plant 1.40 million acres in 2008, down 8 percent from last year and 14 percent below 2006. The decrease in planted acres can be mainly attributed to higher prices for competing crops and lack of soil moisture in some states.

Dry edible pea growers intend to plant 820,000 acres in 2008, down 3 percent from 2007 and 11 percent below two years ago. **Lentil** area planted for the 2008 crop year is expected to total 277,000 acres, down 9 percent from 2007 and 35 percent below two years ago.

Sunflower growers expect to plant a total of 2.15 million acres in 2008, up 4 percent from last year and up 10 percent from 2006. Area intended for **oil type** varieties, at 1.85 million acres, is up 5 percent from 2007, and area for **non-oil** varieties, estimated at 305,000 acres, is up fractionally from last year.

Sugarbeet area planted for the 2008 crop year is expected to total 1.13 million acres, 11 percent lower than the 2007 planted acreage. If realized, expected planted acreage will be the lowest since 1985.

**Prospective Plantings: Area Planted
North Dakota and United States, 2006-2008**

Crop	North Dakota				United States			
	2006	2007	Indicated 2008	2008 as % of 2007	2006	2007	Indicated 2008	2008 as % of 2007
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley	1,100	1,470	1,550	105	3,452	4,020	4,147	103
Corn, All	1,690	2,550	2,250	88	78,327	93,600	86,014	92
Hay, All ^{1/}	2,720	2,780	2,900	104	60,927	61,625	60,583	98
Oats	420	460	350	76	4,168	3,760	3,420	91
Wheat, All	8,800	8,595	9,200	107	57,344	60,433	63,803	106
Winter	200	465	650	140	40,575	44,987	46,840	104
Durum	1,300	1,480	1,650	111	1,870	2,149	2,630	122
Spring	7,300	6,650	6,900	104	14,899	13,297	14,333	108
Canola	940	1,080	920	85	1,044	1,183	1,010	85
Flaxseed	750	320	330	103	813	354	360	102
Soybeans	3,900	3,050	3,550	116	75,522	63,631	74,793	118
Sunflower, All	900	1,075	1,045	97	1,950	2,068	2,153	104
Oil	770	910	920	101	1,658	1,764	1,848	105
Non-Oil	130	165	125	76	292	304	305	100
Sugarbeets	261	252	217	86	1,366.2	1,269.8	1,131.8	89
Dry Edible Beans, All	670.0	690.0	620.0	90	1,629.8	1,526.9	1,398.5	92
Chickpeas, All (Garbanzo)	13.0	17.0	24.0	141	136.8	125.5	98.5	78
Small	7.5	4.5	9.0	200	17.4	11.1	15.4	139
Large	5.5	12.5	15.0	120	119.4	114.4	83.1	73
Dry Edible Peas	610	515	500	97	925.5	847.5	820.0	97
Lentils	160	110	95	86	429	303	277	91

1/ Acreage for harvest.

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