



News Release

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Small Grain Summary
September 30, 2008

2008 Small Grains Production Estimates

North Dakota

Spring wheat production for 2008 is estimated at 246 million bushels, up 10 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 5 percent from last year, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. This is the highest production since the 2003 crop of 253 million bushels. The area harvested for grain, at 6.40 million acres, is down 100,000 acres from 2007. The yield is 38.5 bushels per acre, up 4.5 bushels from August and 2.5 bushels from last year.

Durum wheat production is estimated at 42.3 million bushels, up 2 percent from August but down 4 percent from 2007. Harvested acres, at 1.69 million, are up 16 percent from last year. The yield is 25.0 bushels per acre, no change from August but down 5.0 bushels from 2007.

Winter wheat production is estimated at a record high 22.6 million bushels, beating out last year's record high crop of 22.3 million bushels. The area harvested for grain totaled 550,000 acres, up from 445,000 acres in 2007 and equal to the record high set in 1984. The yield is 41.0 bushels per acre, down 9.0 bushels from last year.

All wheat production is estimated at 311 million bushels, up 4 percent from 2007. The area harvested for grain totals 8.64 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. Average yield is 36.0 bushels per acre, up from 35.7 bushels last year.

Barley production is estimated at 86.2 million bushels, up 23 percent from August and 11 percent from 2007. Area harvested for grain, at 1.54 million acres, is up 11 percent from last year. Average yield is 56.0 bushels per acre, up 6.0 bushels from August but equal to last year.

Oat production is estimated at 6.63 million bushels, down 12 percent from August and 57 percent from 2007. Area harvested for grain, at 130,000 acres, is down from 260,000 acres last year. Estimated yield is 51.0 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from August but down 8.0 bushels from 2007.

United States

Spring wheat production for 2008 is estimated at 547 million bushels, up 9 percent from the August forecast and up 14 percent from last year. Harvested area is 13.5 million acres, down 2 percent from August but up 4 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is 40.5 bushels per acre, 4.1 bushels above the last forecast and up 3.5 bushels from last year.

Durum wheat production totaled 84.9 million bushels, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up 18 percent from 2007. Grain area harvested is 2.58 million acres, down fractionally from August but up 22 percent from the previous year. The U.S. yield is estimated at 32.8 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from the last forecast and down 1.1 bushels from 2007. In the northern Great Plains, warm, dry conditions during the months of June and July accelerated crop development and decreased the yield from last year.

Winter wheat production is estimated at 1.87 billion bushels, down slightly from the final forecast but up 23 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 47.2 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from August and up 5.0 bushels from last year's final yield. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 39.6 million acres, down 2 percent from the last forecast but up 10 percent from the previous year.

All wheat production totals 2.50 billion bushels in 2008, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 21 percent from 2007. Grain area is 55.7 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.9 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from the last forecast and up 4.4 bushels from last year.

Barley production is estimated at 239 million bushels, 10 percent above the August forecast and 13 percent above 2007. Average yield per acre, at 63.6 bushels, is up 3.7 bushels from August and 3.2 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.77 million acres, up 7 percent from a year ago.

Oat production is estimated at a record low 88.6 million bushels, 1 percent below the August 1 forecast and down 3 percent from last year. The estimated yield is 63.5 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from the last forecast and up 2.6 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 1.40 million acres, is 3 percent and 7 percent below August and last year, respectively. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

**Small Grains Annual Summary: Area Planted and Harvested
North Dakota and United States, 2007 and 2008**

| Crop | North Dakota | | | | United States | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Area Planted | | Area Harvested | | Area Planted | | Area Harvested | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| | <i>1,000 Acres</i> | <i>1,000 Acres</i> | <i>1,000 Acres</i> | <i>1,000 Acres</i> | <i>1,000 Acres</i> | <i>1,000 Acres</i> | <i>1,000 Acres</i> | <i>1,000 Acres</i> |
| Barley | 1,470 | 1,650 | 1,390 | 1,540 | 4,020 | 4,234 | 3,508 | 3,767 |
| Oats | 460 | 320 | 260 | 130 | 3,760 | 3,217 | 1,505 | 1,395 |
| Rye ¹ | | | | | 1,376 | 1,260 | 289 | 269 |
| Wheat, All | 8,595 | 9,230 | 8,405 | 8,640 | 60,433 | 63,047 | 51,011 | 55,685 |
| Winter | 465 | 630 | 445 | 550 | 44,987 | 46,181 | 35,952 | 39,614 |
| Durum | 1,480 | 1,800 | 1,460 | 1,690 | 2,149 | 2,731 | 2,112 | 2,584 |
| Spring | 6,650 | 6,800 | 6,500 | 6,400 | 13,297 | 14,135 | 12,947 | 13,487 |

¹ Published at U.S. level only.

**Small Grains Annual Summary: Yield and Production
North Dakota and United States, 2007 and 2008**

| Crop | Unit | North Dakota | | | | United States | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Yield | | Production | | Yield | | Production | |
| | | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| | | | | <i>1,000</i> | <i>1,000</i> | | | <i>1,000</i> | <i>1,000</i> |
| Barley | <i>Bu</i> | 56.0 | 56.0 | 77,840 | 86,240 | 60.4 | 63.6 | 211,825 | 239,498 |
| Oats | <i>Bu</i> | 59.0 | 51.0 | 15,340 | 6,630 | 60.9 | 63.5 | 91,599 | 88,635 |
| Rye ¹ | <i>Bu</i> | | | | | 27.4 | 29.7 | 7,914 | 7,979 |
| Wheat, All | <i>Bu</i> | 35.7 | 36.0 | 300,050 | 311,200 | 40.5 | 44.9 | 2,066,722 | 2,499,524 |
| Winter | <i>Bu</i> | 50.0 | 41.0 | 22,250 | 22,550 | 42.2 | 47.2 | 1,515,989 | 1,867,903 |
| Durum | <i>Bu</i> | 30.0 | 25.0 | 43,800 | 42,250 | 33.9 | 32.8 | 71,686 | 84,877 |
| Spring | <i>Bu</i> | 36.0 | 38.5 | 234,000 | 246,400 | 37.0 | 40.5 | 479,047 | 546,744 |

¹ Published at U.S. level only.

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