

crop production



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HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER WHEAT REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1971

Seeding of winter wheat in the fall of 1971 for harvest in 1972, at 42.2 million acres, was 9 percent (3.5 million) above the previous year and 10 percent (3.9 million) above 2 years earlier.

Prospective 1972 winter wheat production at 1,291 million bushels is record high and 11 percent (128 million) above the 1971 crop.

WINTER WHEAT

ITEM	Crop of 1970	Crop of 1971	Crop of 1972 1/
Acreage seeded for all purposes (1,000 acres)	38,350	38,698	42,239
Yield per seeded acre (bu.)	29.0	30.1	30.6
Production (1,000 bu.)	1,110,290	1,163,420	1,291,428
Seedings as % of previous year	89.0	100.9	109.2
Harvested for grain (percent)	86.8	85.4	89.4

1/ Indicated December 1, 1971.

APPROVED :

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE CROP REPORTING BOARD

CrPr 2-3 (12-71)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Fall seeding of winter wheat in 1971 for harvest in 1972 at 42.2 million acres was 9 percent more than the 1971 crop and 10 percent above the 1970 crop seeding. Planted acres were up in all major producing States. Five States -- Minnesota, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and California -- recorded declines from a year earlier. This is the first winter wheat crop to be planted under provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1970 which became law after virtually all seeding for 1971 harvest had been completed.

The 1972 prospective winter wheat crop based on conditions as of December 1 is a record 1,291 million bushels. This would be 11 percent more than the 1971 crop and 16 percent above the 1970 production. The previous record high was 1,235 million bushels in 1968. Condition of the crop on December 1 was mostly good to excellent. In the past decade, changes from the December 1 forecast to the final estimates have averaged 67 million bushels -- from 3 to 123 million bushels.

Yield per seeded acre at 30.6 bushels is record high, 0.5 bushel above the 1971 yield and 1.6 bushels above 1970. December 1 conditions indicate 89.4 percent of the seeded acreage will be harvested for grain compared with 85.4 for the 1971 crop and 86.8 percent in 1970.

Seeding of the 1972 Kansas wheat crop got off to a slow start in early September because of limited soil moisture in the early seeded western area of the State, but late September rains permitted rapid progress. Some north central localities remained quite dry which slowed planting and growth and wet fields delayed seeding in the southeast. Condition of wheat and stands on December 1 was mostly good to excellent, and top growth was more abundant than usual. Wheat pastures in the western two-thirds of the State were providing the best grazing in recent years.

Nebraska growers commenced seeding in western areas in late August, about the usual date, under favorable moisture conditions which were maintained throughout the fall. However, dry conditions in eastern areas slowed planting and many growers ended up seeding in dry soils. Late October rains improved moisture conditions and unseasonably warm temperatures in November allowed good germination. The crop in western areas is in very good to excellent condition and good to very good elsewhere in the State. Generally adequate growth had been attained.

Seeding in Colorado was virtually completed by the first week in October. Soil moisture was short at the start of the planting season but mid-September rains were very beneficial. The crop entered winter in excellent condition as excellent stands were attained and plant growth has been sufficient to provide ground cover.

Oklahoma growers had virtually all their winter wheat in by mid-October. The crop got off to a good start. Wheat pastures were furnishing the best grazing in years. Like most other Plains areas, the planting season started off dry but after mid-September, soil moisture supplies were adequate to surplus. All of the Oklahoma crop is currently in good to excellent condition.

The Texas crop was nearly all seeded by mid-November after having been delayed by wet fields. Wheat was progressing well around December 1 and soil moisture was adequate. This was in sharp contrast to a year earlier when moisture shortages retarded the crop in Texas and the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Seeding started slowly in Montana but was completed on schedule. Soil moisture shortages and cool weather in major growing areas resulted in spotty stands.

Substantial rainfall in September in the Pacific Northwest was beneficial. Planting in Washington was nearly complete by November 1. Late seedings were slow to emerge and many fields had less growth than desired. However, most fields have uniform stands and reportedly good to excellent condition. Oregon and Idaho plantings were up to good stands and entered the winter in good condition.

Seeding in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana progressed ahead of a year earlier. Winter wheat in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois grew well because of adequate moisture and a mild fall. Some growers expressed concern about more growth than desired for entering the winter. Seeding in the Southeastern States was delayed by wet weather and late harvest of corn and soybeans. The Gulf States experienced dry weather but rains around December 1 were very beneficial.

Winter Wheat

State	Acreage seeded 1/				Production		
	Crop of 1970	Crop of 1971	Crop of 1972	Crop of 1972: as percent of crop of 1971	Crop of 1970	Crop of 1971	Crop of 1972 2/
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 bushels		
N. Y.	165	141	175	124	6,579	5,200	6,825
N. J.	42	40	46	115	1,216	1,551	1,656
Pa.	310	295	316	107	9,834	10,296	10,744
Ohio	994	1,004	1,104	110	35,927	42,674	44,160
Ind.	805	781	953	122	29,799	33,075	40,026
Ill.	1,037	1,027	1,212	118	35,748	43,252	49,692
Mich.	584	590	675	114	22,035	20,520	25,650
Wis.	27	30	32	107	988	1,189	1,248
Minn.	24	33	31	94	594	868	806
Iowa	43	40	46	115	1,400	1,332	1,518
Mo.	1,059	974	1,071	110	31,222	34,344	36,414
N. Dak.	58	81	87	107	1,248	2,040	2,175
S. Dak.	599	641	801	125	14,094	19,908	25,632
Nebr.	2,698	2,644	2,856	108	97,204	107,436	99,960
Kans.	9,690	9,593	10,100	105	299,013	312,605	313,100
Del.	23	27	27	100	798	975	918
Md.	125	120	126	105	4,181	4,400	4,410
Va.	180	212	233	110	7,260	8,360	9,320
W. Va.	17	16	18	113	462	429	486
N. C.	234	318	290	91	8,514	11,610	10,440
S. C.	86	134	140	104	2,835	5,040	5,180
Ga.	115	242	290	120	3,600	8,170	9,860
Fla.	45	77	70	91	1,102	2,010	1,750
Ky.	219	247	301	122	6,120	7,600	9,331
Tenn.	257	290	331	114	7,378	8,750	10,261
Ala.	117	164	161	98	2,324	3,480	3,220
Miss.	164	203	233	115	4,930	5,130	6,524
Ark.	418	368	397	108	10,725	9,639	10,322
La.	78	98	110	112	957	1,035	1,320
Okla.	4,875	4,875	5,314	109	98,202	69,500	127,536
Texas	3,547	3,512	3,652	104	54,408	31,416	65,736
Mont.	1,638	1,913	2,143	112	41,796	54,810	57,861
Idaho	790	766	889	116	33,258	35,751	40,005
Wyo.	231	229	275	120	5,684	6,732	7,150
Colo.	2,829	2,740	2,987	109	65,550	69,552	62,727
N. Mex.	297	347	378	109	5,152	4,000	6,426
Ariz.	166	189	189	100	10,350	11,764	12,285
Utah	187	183	205	112	4,744	5,046	5,535
Nev.	10	7	7	100	630	450	448
Wash.	2,305	2,284	2,672	117	94,500	109,900	112,224
Oreg.	703	731	863	118	26,404	32,016	32,794
Calif.	559	492	433	88	21,525	19,565	17,753
U. S.	38,350	38,698	42,239	109.2	1,110,290	1,163,420	1,291,428

1/ Total acreage seeded for all purposes. 2/ Indicated December 1, 1971.

