NASS
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Prospective Plantings

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Corn Planted Acreage Up Fractionally from 2003
Soybean Acreage Up 3 Percent
All Wheat Acreage Down 4 Percent
All Cotton Acreage Up 7 Percent

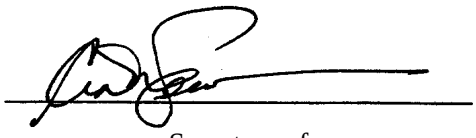
Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 79.0 million acres, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt as growers are hoping to take advantage of higher corn prices. However, most States in the Southeast and southern Great Plains are intending to decrease their corn plantings as producers are switching to soybeans and cotton due to more favorable prices relative to corn.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 75.4 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record and a rebound from the three year decline in acreage. Growers in all States, except South Dakota and Wisconsin, intend to plant more than or at least as many acres of soybeans as last year. Current high prices are encouraging many producers to plant more soybeans, with the largest acreage increases expected in North Dakota, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Minnesota.

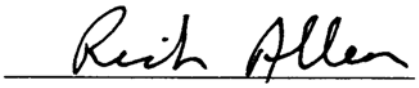
All wheat planted area is expected to total 59.5 million acres in 2004, down 4 percent from 2003. Winter wheat planted area for the 2004 crop is 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Of the total, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.3 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres are White Winter. The 2004 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 13.3 million, down 4 percent from last year. Of the total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Area planted to Durum wheat is intended to total 2.76 million acres, down 5 percent from a year ago.

All Cotton plantings for 2004 are expected to total 14.4 million acres, 7 percent above last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 14.2 million acres, also a 7 percent increase. All States are expecting more acreage than last year except for North Carolina and Mississippi. American-Pima cotton growers intend to increase their plantings to 226,600 acres, up 27 percent from 2003. The increase is primarily in California where producers are intending to plant 50,000 acres more than last year.

This report was approved on March 31, 2004.



Secretary of
Agriculture
Ann M. Veneman



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Contents

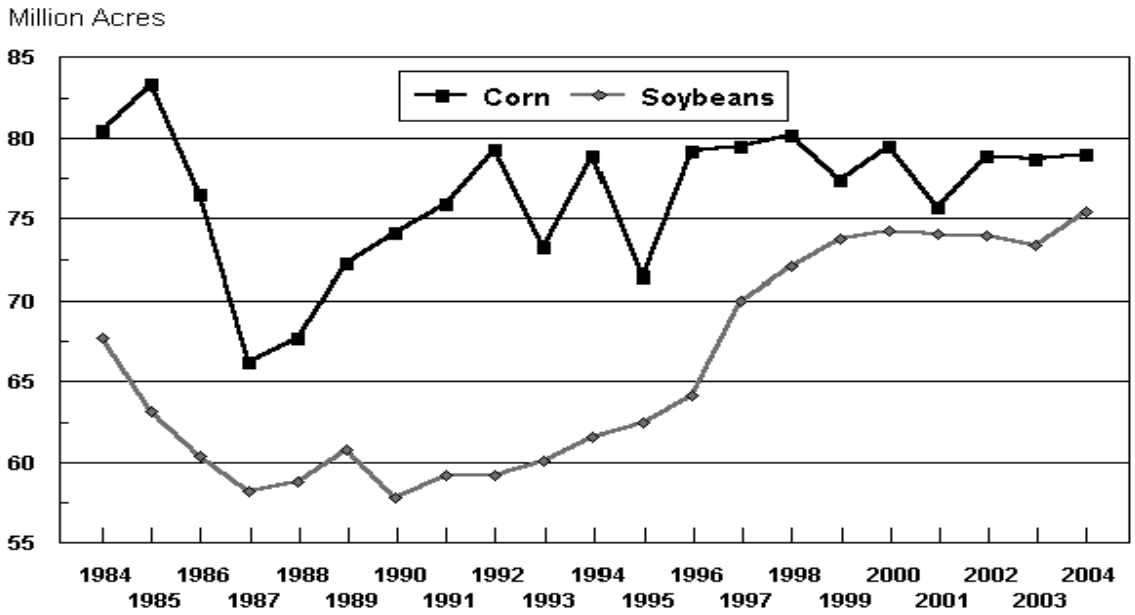
Page

Corn: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AL	200	220	220	100
AZ	60	47	47	100
AR	265	365	280	77
CA	545	520	550	106
CO	1,200	1,080	1,150	106
CT	32	30	30	100
DE	180	170	165	97
FL	75	75	65	87
GA	340	340	330	97
ID	190	190	180	95
IL	11,100	11,200	11,200	100
IN	5,400	5,600	5,600	100
IA	12,200	12,400	12,500	101
KS	3,250	2,900	3,000	103
KY	1,160	1,170	1,190	102
LA	580	520	450	87
ME	29	28	28	100
MD	510	480	490	102
MA	22	20	20	100
MI	2,250	2,300	2,350	102
MN	7,200	7,200	7,400	103
MS	550	550	450	82
MO	2,800	2,900	2,950	102
MT	65	65	70	108
NE	8,400	8,100	8,000	99
NV	4	4	4	100
NH	15	15	15	100
NJ	90	80	85	106
NM	140	130	140	108
NY	1,020	1,000	960	96
NC	780	740	760	103
ND	1,230	1,450	1,600	110
OH	3,250	3,300	3,400	103
OK	240	230	210	91
OR	48	51	57	112
PA	1,400	1,450	1,400	97
RI	2	2	2	100
SC	320	240	290	121
SD	4,450	4,400	4,450	101
TN	690	710	650	92
TX	2,050	1,830	1,750	96
UT	57	55	61	111
VT	95	96	90	94
VA	500	470	440	94
WA	130	130	150	115
WV	50	48	45	94
WI	3,650	3,750	3,650	97
WY	80	85	80	94
US	78,894	78,736	79,004	100

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

U.S. Corn and Soybean Planted Acreage



Sorghum: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AL	10	10	10	100
AZ	15	17	15	88
AR	240	225	110	49
CA	17	18	19	106
CO	350	270	340	126
DE	2	2	2	100
GA	55	55	50	91
IL	80	110	110	100
KS	3,800	3,550	3,400	96
KY	12	33	20	61
LA	180	170	100	59
MD	5	6	5	83
MS	80	75	40	53
MO	200	215	175	81
NE	450	660	550	83
NM	170	140	130	93
NC	17	18	18	100
OK	430	300	290	97
PA	11	15	15	100
SC	7	7	7	100
SD	220	270	350	130
TN	30	45	35	78
TX	3,200	3,200	2,800	88
VA	8	9	9	100
US	9,589	9,420	8,600	91

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Oats: Area Planted and Harvested by State and United States, 2002-2004 [1]

State	Area Planted				Area Harvested			
	2002	2003	2004 [2]	2004/2003	2002	2003	2004 [2]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
CA	260	260	280	108	32	35	35	100
CO	65	100	90	90	8	15	30	200
GA	90	100	80	80	25	30	25	83
ID	125	120	125	104	25	25	25	100
IL	65	60	50	83	45	50	40	80
IN	20	25	25	100	14	15	16	107
IA	290	220	200	91	175	130	120	92
KS	140	140	130	93	60	70	60	86
ME	28	31	30	97	27	30	29	97
MI	80	90	90	100	65	75	75	100
MN	420	350	290	83	265	265	200	75
MO	65	30	22	73	35	18	13	72
MT	135	120	130	108	50	45	50	111
NE	175	220	155	70	55	90	70	78
NY	75	85	95	112	65	70	75	107
NC	65	55	60	109	25	22	30	136
ND	670	620	550	89	300	360	300	83
OH	70	80	70	88	55	60	50	83
OK	85	70	50	71	20	25	15	60
OR	70	60	60	100	30	20	30	150
PA	140	140	140	100	115	110	120	109
SC	50	40	40	100	25	20	25	125
SD	470	420	400	95	120	230	220	96
TX	750	625	600	96	140	140	130	93
UT	60	65	65	100	4	6	9	150
WA	32	35	30	86	13	15	15	100
WI	430	380	405	107	250	230	240	104
WY	70	60	50	83	15	23	20	87
US	4,995	4,601	4,312	94	2,058	2,224	2,067	93

[1] Includes area planted in preceding fall.
[2] Intended area planted and to be planted and area to be harvested for grain in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Barley: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004 [1]

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [2]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AZ	46	32	35	109
CA	130	100	110	110
CO	85	85	75	88
DE	25	25	25	100
ID	730	750	700	93
KS	8	9	10	111
KY	9	9	9	100
ME	28	28	28	100
MD	43	45	37	82
MI	14	15	14	93
MN	190	190	110	58
MT	1,180	1,100	950	86
NE	6	6	5	83
NV	4	5	4	80
NJ	4	4	4	100
NY	11	14	15	107
NC	25	20	20	100
ND	1,600	2,050	1,800	88
OH	7	7	5	71
OR	78	70	62	89
PA	70	75	70	93
SD	80	75	70	93
UT	70	45	50	111
VA	75	75	50	67
WA	350	320	290	91
WI	55	55	45	82
WY	85	90	90	100
US	5,008	5,299	4,683	88

[1] Includes area planted in preceding fall.
[2] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

All Wheat: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004 [1]

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [2]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AL	150	150	120	80
AZ	99	119	109	92
AR	950	700	720	103
CA	625	805	660	82
CO	2,375	2,630	2,317	88
DE	55	50	45	90
FL	19	20	20	100
GA	330	380	330	87
ID	1,150	1,240	1,170	94
IL	660	850	1,000	118
IN	340	460	430	93
IA	20	21	26	124
KS	9,700	10,400	9,900	95
KY	530	480	480	100
LA	230	155	150	97
MD	185	165	160	97
MI	450	680	630	93
MN	2,040	1,877	1,627	87
MS	230	150	220	147
MO	900	960	1,050	109
MT	5,790	5,290	5,270	100
NE	1,650	1,900	1,950	103
NV	13	12	14	117
NJ	38	31	28	90
NM	480	500	470	94
NY	120	130	100	77
NC	600	530	630	119
ND	9,080	8,630	8,440	98
OH	860	1,060	900	85
OK	6,200	6,600	6,400	97
OR	945	1,115	1,020	91
PA	190	175	140	80
SC	200	200	190	95
SD	3,030	3,028	3,220	106
TN	470	430	400	93
TX	6,400	6,600	6,100	92
UT	155	175	153	87
VA	230	210	180	86
WA	2,450	2,400	2,280	95
WV	12	12	8	67
WI	208	212	247	117
WY	159	168	158	94
US	60,318	61,700	59,462	96

[1] Includes area planted in preceding fall.
[2] Intended plantings for 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Winter Wheat: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004 [1]

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AL	150	150	120	80
AZ	6	4	4	100
AR	950	700	720	103
CA	530	675	550	81
CO	2,350	2,600	2,300	88
DE	55	50	45	90
FL	19	20	20	100
GA	330	380	330	87
ID	670	760	720	95
IL	660	850	1,000	118
IN	340	460	430	93
IA	20	21	26	124
KS	9,700	10,400	9,900	95
KY	530	480	480	100
LA	230	155	150	97
MD	185	165	160	97
MI	450	680	630	93
MN	35	25	25	100
MS	230	150	220	147
MO	900	960	1,050	109
MT	1,450	1,800	1,850	103
NE	1,650	1,900	1,950	103
NV	6	7	6	86
NJ	38	31	28	90
NM	480	500	470	94
NY	120	130	100	77
NC	600	530	630	119
ND	80	130	240	185
OH	860	1,060	900	85
OK	6,200	6,600	6,400	97
OR	800	970	870	90
PA	190	175	140	80
SC	200	200	190	95
SD	1,300	1,600	1,700	106
TN	470	430	400	93
TX	6,400	6,600	6,100	92
UT	140	160	140	88
VA	230	210	180	86
WA	1,850	1,850	1,800	97
WV	12	12	8	67
WI	200	205	240	117
WY	150	160	150	94
US	41,766	44,945	43,372	97

[1] Includes area planted in preceding fall.

Durum Wheat: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004 [1]

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [2]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AZ	93	115	105	91
CA	95	130	110	85
MN	5	2	2	100
MT	590	640	620	97
ND	2,100	2,000	1,900	95
SD	30	28	20	71
US	2,913	2,915	2,757	95

[1] Includes area planted in preceding fall in AZ and CA.
[2] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Other Spring Wheat: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
CO	25	30	17	57
ID	480	480	450	94
MN	2,000	1,850	1,600	86
MT	3,750	2,850	2,800	98
NV	7	5	8	160
ND	6,900	6,500	6,300	97
OR	145	145	150	103
SD	1,700	1,400	1,500	107
UT	15	15	13	87
WA	600	550	480	87
WI	8	7	7	100
WY	9	8	8	100
US	15,639	13,840	13,333	96

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Rice: Area Planted by Class, State, and United States, 2002-2004

Class and State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
Long Grain				
AR	1,350	1,300	1,400	108
CA	7	7	6	86
LA	530	435	510	117
MS	255	235	235	100
MO	190	175	185	106
TX	205	180	190	106
US	2,537	2,332	2,526	108
Medium Grain				
AR	165	165	160	97
CA	500	460	510	111
LA	10	20	20	100
MO	0	1	1	100
TX	1	1	2	200
US	676	647	693	107
Short Grain				
AR	1	1	1	100
CA [2]	26	42	40	95
US	27	43	41	95
All				
AR	1,516	1,466	1,561	106
CA	533	509	556	109
LA	540	455	530	116
MS	255	235	235	100
MO	190	176	186	106
TX	206	181	192	106
US	3,240	3,022	3,260	108

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Sweet rice acreage included in 2003 and 2004, but not previous years.

All Hay: Area Harvested by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Harvested			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AL	825	780	800	103
AZ	275	275	260	95
AR	1,430	1,340	1,350	101
CA	1,750	1,570	1,480	94
CO	1,330	1,500	1,340	89
CT	62	60	65	108
DE	15	13	13	100
FL	280	255	250	98
GA	650	600	650	108
ID	1,490	1,500	1,540	103
IL	775	775	750	97
IN	600	650	650	100
IA	1,600	1,600	1,600	100
KS	3,250	3,250	3,200	98
KY	2,420	2,450	2,350	96
LA	420	380	400	105
ME	157	128	125	98
MD	220	195	200	103
MA	86	90	80	89
MI	1,100	1,050	1,100	105
MN	2,100	2,075	2,100	101
MS	750	750	750	100
MO	4,250	4,250	4,450	105
MT	2,600	2,450	2,600	106
NE	3,050	3,150	3,100	98
NV	485	440	490	111
NH	54	55	55	100
NJ	120	120	120	100
NM	360	300	300	100
NY	1,710	1,850	1,850	100
NC	750	778	760	98
ND	3,300	2,950	2,900	98
OH	1,320	1,350	1,400	104
OK	3,150	2,810	2,700	96
OR	1,115	1,115	1,105	99
PA	1,730	1,650	1,750	106
RI	8	8	8	100
SC	340	340	300	88
SD	3,850	4,300	4,400	102
TN	1,980	2,030	2,000	99
TX	5,450	5,240	5,300	101
UT	715	700	700	100
VT	240	235	240	102
VA	1,390	1,280	1,390	109
WA	820	810	800	99
WV	570	545	560	103
WI	2,050	2,100	2,200	105
WY	950	1,200	1,200	100
US	63,942	63,342	63,731	101

[1] Intended area harvested in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Soybeans: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AL	170	170	180	106
AR	2,950	2,920	3,050	104
DE	190	180	200	111
FL	10	13	15	115
GA	160	190	230	121
IL	10,600	10,300	10,300	100
IN	5,800	5,450	5,450	100
IA	10,450	10,600	10,700	101
KS	2,750	2,600	2,700	104
KY	1,310	1,250	1,250	100
LA	800	760	980	129
MD	490	435	475	109
MI	2,050	2,000	2,000	100
MN	7,200	7,500	7,700	103
MS	1,440	1,440	1,650	115
MO	5,050	5,000	5,100	102
NE	4,700	4,550	4,650	102
NJ	100	90	95	106
NY	145	140	190	136
NC	1,370	1,450	1,500	103
ND	2,670	3,150	3,700	117
OH	4,750	4,300	4,350	101
OK	280	270	300	111
PA	405	380	390	103
SC	435	430	480	112
SD	4,250	4,250	4,100	96
TN	1,160	1,150	1,180	103
TX	230	200	270	135
VA	490	500	510	102
WV	18	16	16	100
WI	1,540	1,720	1,700	99
US	73,963	73,404	75,411	103

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Peanuts: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AL	185.0	190.0	195.0	103
FL	96.0	125.0	140.0	112
GA	510.0	545.0	565.0	104
NM	18.0	18.0	16.0	89
NC	101.0	101.0	102.0	101
OK	60.0	37.0	30.0	81
SC	10.0	19.0	33.0	174
TX	315.0	275.0	250.0	91
VA	58.0	34.0	35.0	103
US	1,353.0	1,344.0	1,366.0	102

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Sunflowers: Area Planted by Type, State, and United States, 2002-2004

Varietal Type and State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
Oil				
CO	95	95	70	74
KS	200	170	170	100
MN	40	55	40	73
NE	47	51	40	78
ND	1,150	1,060	1,000	94
SD	535	475	380	80
TX	10	17	20	118
Oth Sts [2 3]	49	75	75	100
US	2,126	1,998	1,795	90
Non-Oil				
CO	35	35	25	71
KS	15	23	20	87
MN	30	35	35	100
NE	13	15	15	100
ND	220	150	120	80
SD	105	30	30	100
TX	25	42	30	71
Oth Sts [2 3]	12	16	16	100
US	455	346	291	84
All				
CO	130	130	95	73
KS	215	193	190	98
MN	70	90	75	83
NE	60	66	55	83
ND	1,370	1,210	1,120	93
SD	640	505	410	81
TX	35	59	50	85
Oth Sts [2 3]	61	91	91	100
US	2,581	2,344	2,086	89

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] 2004 estimates carried forward from 2003. First 2004 estimate will be published in "Acreage" on June 30, 2004.
[3] Other States include CA, GA, IL, LA, MI, MO, MT, NM, NY, OH, OK, PA, SC, UT, WA, WI, and WY.

Canola: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
MN	80	57	60	105
ND	1,300	970	850	88
Oth Sts [2 3]	80	55	55	100
US	1,460	1,082	965	89

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] 2004 estimates carried forward from 2003. First 2004 estimate will be published in "Acreage" on June 30, 2004.
[3] Other States include AL, AZ, CA, GA, ID, IN, KS, MI, MT, NY, OR, PA, SC, SD, and WA.

Cotton: Area Planted by Type, State, and United States, 2002-2004

Type and State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
Upland				
AL	590.0	525.0	550.0	105
AZ	215.0	215.0	220.0	102
AR	960.0	980.0	1,050.0	107
CA	480.0	550.0	560.0	102
FL	120.0	94.0	105.0	112
GA	1,450.0	1,300.0	1,350.0	104
KS	80.0	90.0	130.0	144
LA	520.0	525.0	600.0	114
MS	1,170.0	1,110.0	1,100.0	99
MO	380.0	400.0	410.0	103
NM	54.0	56.0	60.0	107
NC	940.0	810.0	790.0	98
OK	200.0	180.0	210.0	117
SC	290.0	220.0	260.0	118
TN	565.0	560.0	590.0	105
TX	5,600.0	5,600.0	6,100.0	109
VA	100.0	89.0	90.0	101
US	13,714.0	13,304.0	14,175.0	107
Amer-Pima				
AZ	8.3	3.0	2.6	87
CA	210.0	150.0	200.0	133
NM	7.1	6.1	8.0	131
TX	18.5	20.0	16.0	80
US	243.9	179.1	226.6	127
All				
AL	590.0	525.0	550.0	105
AZ	223.3	218.0	222.6	102
AR	960.0	980.0	1,050.0	107
CA	690.0	700.0	760.0	109
FL	120.0	94.0	105.0	112
GA	1,450.0	1,300.0	1,350.0	104
KS	80.0	90.0	130.0	144
LA	520.0	525.0	600.0	114
MS	1,170.0	1,110.0	1,100.0	99
MO	380.0	400.0	410.0	103
NM	61.1	62.1	68.0	110
NC	940.0	810.0	790.0	98
OK	200.0	180.0	210.0	117
SC	290.0	220.0	260.0	118
TN	565.0	560.0	590.0	105
TX	5,618.5	5,620.0	6,116.0	109
VA	100.0	89.0	90.0	101
US	13,957.9	13,483.1	14,401.6	107

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Sugarbeets: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004 [1]

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [2]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
CA	50.2	50.8	50.5	99
CO	43.9	28.6	42.0	147
ID	212.0	208.0	197.0	95
MI	179.0	179.0	173.0	97
MN	505.0	492.0	486.0	99
MT	58.0	51.7	54.0	104
NE	57.0	45.3	45.0	99
ND	265.0	259.0	255.0	98
OH	1.9	1.9	1.9	100
OR	11.3	9.7	11.0	113
WA	4.0	4.4	4.2	95
WY	40.0	35.0	39.0	111
US	1,427.3	1,365.4	1,358.6	100

[1] Relates to year of intended harvest in all States except CA. In CA, relates to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central CA and to year of planting for overwintered beets in central and southern CA.
[2] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Tobacco: Area Harvested by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Harvested			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Percent*
CT	2,000	2,200	2,350	107
FL	4,600	4,400	4,200	95
GA	26,500	27,000	24,000	89
IN	4,000	4,200	4,300	102
KY	111,100	112,300	113,600	101
MD	1,200	1,500	1,000	67
MA	1,160	1,230	1,150	93
MO	1,400	1,300	1,300	100
NC	168,300	159,700	158,500	99
OH	5,500	5,300	5,800	109
PA	3,400	3,700	4,200	114
SC	30,500	30,000	27,000	90
TN	35,900	34,140	33,380	98
VA	30,000	26,220	30,770	117
WV	1,300	1,200	1,300	108
WI	1,450	1,820	1,700	93
US	428,310	416,210	414,550	100

[1] Intended area harvested in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Tobacco: Area Harvested by Class, Type, State, and United States, 2002-2004

Class and Type	Area Harvested			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Percent*
Class 1, Flue-cured				
Type 11, Old Belts				
NC	43,000	40,000	40,000	100
VA	22,000	19,000	23,000	121
US	65,000	59,000	63,000	107
Type 12, Eastern NC Belt				
NC	98,000	94,000	93,000	99
Type 13, NC Border & SC Belt				
NC	21,000	20,000	20,000	100
SC	30,500	30,000	27,000	90
US	51,500	50,000	47,000	94
Type 14, GA-FL Belt				
FL	4,600	4,400	4,200	95
GA	26,500	27,000	24,000	89
US	31,100	31,400	28,200	90
Total 11-14	245,600	234,400	231,200	99
Class 2, Fire-cured				
Type 21, VA Belt				
VA	730	650	700	108
Type 22, Eastern District				
KY	2,450	2,500	2,600	104
TN	5,000	5,200	5,400	104
US	7,450	7,700	8,000	104
Type 23, Western District				
KY	2,400	2,400	2,500	104
TN	390	400	420	105
US	2,790	2,800	2,920	104
Total 21-23	10,970	11,150	11,620	104
Class 3, Air-cured				
Class 3A, Light Air-cured				
Type 31, Burley				
IN	4,000	4,200	4,300	102
KY	103,000	104,000	105,000	101
MO	1,400	1,300	1,300	100
NC	6,300	5,700	5,500	96
OH	5,500	5,300	5,800	109
TN	30,000	28,000	27,000	96
VA	7,200	6,500	7,000	108
WV	1,300	1,200	1,300	108
US	158,700	156,200	157,200	101
Type 32, Southern MD Belt				
MD	1,200	1,500	1,000	67
PA	1,300	1,300	2,000	154
US	2,500	2,800	3,000	107
Total 31-32	161,200	159,000	160,200	101

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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Tobacco: Area Harvested by Class, Type, State, and United States, 2002-2004 (continued)

Class and Type	Area Harvested			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Percent*
Class 3, Air-cured				
Class 3B, Dark				
Air-cured				
Type 35, One Sucker				
Belt				
KY	2,100	2,200	2,300	105
TN	510	540	560	104
US	2,610	2,740	2,860	104
Type 36, Green River				
Belt				
KY	1,150	1,200	1,200	100
Type 37, VA Sun-cured				
Belt				
VA	70	70	70	100
Total 35-37	3,830	4,010	4,130	103
Class 4, Cigar Filler				
Type 41, PA Seedleaf				
PA	2,100	2,400	2,200	92
Class 5, Cigar Binder				
Class 5A, CT Valley				
Binder				
Type 51, CT Valley				
Broadleaf				
CT	1,350	1,400	1,500	107
MA	850	950	850	89
US	2,200	2,350	2,350	100
Class 5B, WI Binder				
Type 54, Southern WI				
WI	1,150	1,400	1,300	93
Type 55, Northern WI				
WI	300	420	400	95
Total 54-55	1,450	1,820	1,700	93
Total 51-55	3,650	4,170	4,050	97
Class 6, Cigar Wrapper				
Type 61, CT Valley				
Shade-grown				
CT	650	800	850	106
MA	310	280	300	107
US	960	1,080	1,150	106
All Cigar Types				
Total 41-61	6,710	7,650	7,400	97
All Tobacco	428,310	416,210	414,550	100

[1] Intended area harvested in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Dry Edible Beans: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004 [1]

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [2]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
CA	92.0	77.0	73.0	95
CO	92.0	80.0	85.0	106
ID	95.0	75.0	80.0	107
KS	21.0	12.0	6.0	50
MI	270.0	170.0	180.0	106
MN	170.0	115.0	120.0	104
MT	26.9	13.0	14.0	108
NE	185.0	155.0	145.0	94
NM	8.5	10.0	10.0	100
NY	25.0	25.0	23.0	92
ND	790.0	540.0	480.0	89
OR	9.8	7.0	5.0	71
SD	21.0	8.0	7.0	88
TX	37.5	50.0	27.0	54
UT	1.8	5.6	6.0	107
WA	44.5	27.5	35.0	127
WI	7.7	6.0	6.0	100
WY	32.0	30.0	31.0	103
US	1,929.7	1,406.1	1,333.0	95

[1] Excludes beans grown for garden seed.
[2] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Sweet Potatoes: Area Planted by State and United States, 2002-2004

State	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004 [1]	2004/2003
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Percent*
AL	2.8	2.8	2.6	93
CA	10.4	10.4	11.0	106
LA	21.0	19.0	20.0	105
MS	16.0	14.0	15.0	107
NJ	1.2	1.1	1.1	100
NC	40.0	43.0	44.0	102
SC	1.7	1.4	1.0	71
TX	2.8	3.4	3.2	94
VA	0.5	0.5	0.4	80
US	96.4	95.6	98.3	103

[1] Intended plantings in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Biotechnology Varieties

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the March Agricultural Survey in all States each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States were asked what they intend to plant during the upcoming growing season. Questions include whether or not farmers intend to plant corn, soybean, or upland cotton seed that, through biotechnology, is resistant to herbicides, insects, or both. The biotechnology (biotech) questions were asked for the first time in March 2000. The States published individually in the following tables represent 82 percent of all corn planted acres, 89 percent of all soybean planted acres, and 81 percent of all upland cotton planted acres.

Conventionally bred herbicide resistant varieties were excluded. Insect resistant varieties include only those containing *bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). These Bt varieties include those that contain more than one gene that can resist different types of insects. Stacked gene varieties only include those containing biotech traits for both herbicide and insect resistance.

The acreage estimates are subject to sampling variability because all operations planting biotech varieties are not included in the sample. The variability for the 48 corn States, as measured by the relative standard error, is approximately 1.5 percent for all biotech varieties, 2.4 percent for insect resistant (Bt) only varieties, 3.5 percent for herbicide resistant only varieties, and 5.0 percent for stacked gene varieties. This means that chances are approximately 95 out of 100 that survey estimates will be within plus or minus 3.0 percent for all biotech varieties, 4.8 percent for insect resistant (Bt) only varieties, 7.0 percent for herbicide resistant varieties, and 10.0 percent for stacked gene varieties. Variability for the 31 soybean States is approximately 0.6 percent for herbicide resistant varieties. Variability for the 17 upland cotton States is approximately 1.5 percent for all biotech varieties, 6.1 percent for insect resistant (Bt) only varieties, 3.5 percent for herbicide resistant only varieties, and 3.2 percent for stacked gene varieties.

Corn: Biotechnology Varieties by State and United States, Percent of All Corn Planted, 2003-2004

State	Insect Resistant (Bt)		Herbicide Resistant	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
IL	23	28	4	5
IN	8	10	7	8
IA	33	37	8	11
KS	25	30	17	18
MI	18	16	14	16
MN	31	30	15	19
MO	32	32	9	11
NE	36	41	11	15
OH	6	10	3	5
SD	34	32	24	28
WI	21	24	9	13
Oth Sts [1]	17	20	17	18
US	25	27	11	14
	Stacked Gene Varieties		All Biotech Varieties	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
IL	1	2	28	35
IN	1	1	16	19
IA	4	5	45	53
KS	5	5	47	53
MI	3	3	35	35
MN	7	8	53	57
MO	1	4	42	47
NE	5	8	52	64
OH	*	1	9	16
SD	17	20	75	80
WI	2	2	32	39
Oth Sts [1]	2	4	36	42
US	4	5	40	46

* Data rounds to less than 0.5 percent.
[1] Other States includes all other States in the Corn estimating program.

Upland Cotton: Biotechnology Varieties by State and United States, Percent of Upland Cotton Planted, 2003-2004

State	Insect Resistant (Bt)		Herbicide Resistant	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AR	24	32	25	26
CA	9	5	27	36
GA	14	13	32	19
LA	30	41	15	5
MS	15	13	16	13
NC	16	14	29	29
TX	8	18	39	34
Oth Sts [1]	18	17	32	28
US	14	18	32	28
	Stacked Gene Varieties		All Biotech Varieties	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AR	46	37	95	95
CA	3	3	39	44
GA	47	61	93	93
LA	46	46	91	92
MS	61	69	92	95
NC	48	49	93	92
TX	6	6	53	58
Oth Sts [1]	38	44	88	89
US	27	30	73	76

[1] Other States includes all other States in the Upland Cotton estimating program.

Soybeans: Biotechnology Varieties by State and United States, Percent of All Soybeans Planted, 2003-2004

State	Herbicide Resistant Only		All Biotech Varieties	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AR	84	92	84	92
IL	77	82	77	82
IN	88	88	88	88
IA	84	89	84	89
KS	87	91	87	91
MI	73	75	73	75
MN	79	83	79	83
MS	89	94	89	94
MO	83	88	83	88
NE	86	89	86	89
ND	74	81	74	81
OH	74	77	74	77
SD	91	96	91	96
WI	84	85	84	85
Oth Sts [1]	76	82	76	82
US	81	86	81	86

[1] Other States includes all other States in the Soybean estimating program.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2003-2004
(Domestic Units) [1]

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	5,299.0	4,683.0	4,688.0	
Corn for Grain [2]	78,736.0	79,004.0	71,139.0	
Corn for Silage			6,528.0	
Hay, All			63,342.0	63,731.0
Alfalfa			23,578.0	
All Other			39,764.0	
Oats	4,601.0	4,312.0	2,224.0	2,067.0
Proso Millet	730.0		620.0	
Rice	3,022.0	3,260.0	2,997.0	
Rye	1,368.0		339.0	
Sorghum for Grain [2]	9,420.0	8,600.0	7,798.0	
Sorghum for Silage			343.0	
Wheat, All	61,700.0	59,462.0	52,839.0	
Winter	44,945.0	43,372.0	36,541.0	
Durum	2,915.0	2,757.0	2,869.0	
Other Spring	13,840.0	13,333.0	13,429.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,082.0	965.0	1,068.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	595.0		583.0	
Mustard Seed	110.0		107.0	
Peanuts	1,344.0	1,366.0	1,312.0	
Rapeseed	1.3		1.2	
Safflower	221.0		212.0	
Soybeans for Beans	73,404.0	75,411.0	72,321.0	
Sunflowers	2,344.0	2,086.0	2,197.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,483.1	14,401.6	12,058.0	
Upland	13,304.0	14,175.0	11,880.0	
Amer-Pima	179.1	226.6	178.0	
Sugarbeets	1,365.4	1,358.6	1,347.9	
Sugarcane			997.8	
Tobacco			416.2	414.6
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	21.1		15.6	
Dry Edible Beans	1,406.1	1,333.0	1,346.9	
Dry Edible Peas	337.5		328.5	
Lentils	246.0		237.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			5.9	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.2	
Hops			28.7	
Peppermint Oil			78.2	
Potatoes, All	1,275.0		1,250.3	
Winter	14.6	14.2	14.3	14.0
Spring	88.6		84.7	
Summer	64.2		59.3	
Fall	1,107.6		1,092.0	
Spearmint Oil			15.8	
Sweet Potatoes	95.6	98.3	92.4	
Taro (HI) [3]			0.4	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2004 crop year. [2] Area planted for all purposes. [3] Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acreage.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2003-2004
(Domestic Units) [1]

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004
				1,000	*1,000*
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	58.9		276,087	
Corn for Grain	"	142.2		10,113,887	
Corn for Silage	Ton	16.2		105,864	
Hay, All	"	2.48		157,123	
Alfalfa	"	3.24		76,307	
All Other	"	2.03		80,816	
Oats	Bu	65.0		144,649	
Proso Millet	"	18.5		11,450	
Rice [2]	Cwt	6,645		199,157	
Rye	Bu	27.3		9,254	
Sorghum for Grain	"	52.7		411,237	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	10.4		3,552	
Wheat, All	Bu	44.2		2,336,526	
Winter	"	46.7		1,707,069	
Durum	"	33.7		96,637	
Other Spring	"	39.7		532,820	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,416		1,512,250	
Cottonseed [3]	Ton			6,694.0	
Flaxseed	Bu	17.9		10,426	
Mustard Seed	Lb	723		77,372	
Peanuts	"	3,159		4,144,150	
Rapeseed	"	949		1,139	
Safflower	"	1,286		272,555	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	33.4		2,417,565	
Sunflowers	Lb	1,213		2,665,226	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All [2]	Bale	725		18,224.0	
Upland [2]	"	719		17,795.0	
Amer-Pima [2]	"	1,157		429.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	22.7		30,605	
Sugarcane	"	34.6		34,503	
Tobacco	Lb	1,997		831,204	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas [2]	Cwt	1,115		174	
Dry Edible Beans [2]	"	1,672		22,515	
Dry Edible Peas [2]	"	1,584		5,202	
Lentils [2]	"	1,030		2,442	
Wrinkled Seed Peas [3]	"			673	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,470		8,700	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	37,500		6,000	
Hops	"	1,903		54,565.1	
Peppermint Oil	"	89		6,924	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	367		459,045	
Winter	"	282	274	4,027	3,840
Spring	"	288		24,433	
Summer	"	324		19,199	
Fall	"	377		411,386	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	113		1,778	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	172		15,921	
Taro (HI) [3]	Lb			5,000	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2004 crop year. [2] Yield in pounds. [3] Yield is not estimated.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2003-2004
(Metric Units) [1]

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Hectares	*Hectares*	*Hectares*	*Hectares*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,144,450	1,895,160	1,897,190	
Corn for Grain [2]	31,863,670	31,972,130	28,789,240	
Corn for Silage			2,641,820	
Hay, All [3]			25,633,870	25,791,300
Alfalfa			9,541,780	
All Other			16,092,090	
Oats	1,861,980	1,745,020	900,030	836,490
Proso Millet	295,420		250,910	
Rice	1,222,970	1,319,290	1,212,860	
Rye	553,620		137,190	
Sorghum for Grain [2]	3,812,180	3,480,330	3,155,770	
Sorghum for Silage			138,810	
Wheat, All [3]	24,969,370	24,063,680	21,383,410	
Winter	18,188,790	17,552,210	14,787,780	
Durum	1,179,670	1,115,730	1,161,060	
Other Spring	5,600,910	5,395,730	5,434,580	
Oilseeds				
Canola	437,870	390,530	432,210	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	240,790		235,930	
Mustard Seed	44,520		43,300	
Peanuts	543,900	552,810	530,950	
Rapeseed	530		490	
Safflower	89,440		85,790	
Soybeans for Beans	29,705,860	30,518,080	29,267,590	
Sunflowers	948,590	844,180	889,100	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All [3]	5,456,480	5,828,180	4,879,750	
Upland	5,384,000	5,736,480	4,807,720	
Amer-Pima	72,480	91,700	72,030	
Sugarbeets	552,560	549,810	545,480	
Sugarcane			403,800	
Tobacco			168,440	167,760
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8,540		6,310	
Dry Edible Beans	569,030	539,450	545,080	
Dry Edible Peas	136,580		132,940	
Lentils	99,550		95,910	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,390	
Ginger Root (HI)			60	
Hops			11,600	
Peppermint Oil			31,650	
Potatoes, All [3]	515,980		505,980	
Winter	5,910	5,750	5,790	5,670
Spring	35,860		34,280	
Summer	25,980		24,000	
Fall	448,230		441,920	
Spearmint Oil			6,390	
Sweet Potatoes	38,690	39,780	37,390	
Taro (HI) [4]			170	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2004 crop year. [2] Area planted for all purposes. [3] Total may not add due to rounding. [4] Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

Crop Summary: Yield and Production, United States, 2003-2004
(Metric Units) [1]

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Metric Tons	*Metric Tons*	*Metric Tons*	*Metric Tons*
Grains & Hay				
Barley	3.17		6,011,080	
Corn for Grain	8.92		256,904,560	
Corn for Silage	36.35		96,038,210	
Hay, All [2]	5.56		142,539,590	
Alfalfa	7.25		69,224,550	
All Other	4.56		73,315,040	
Oats	2.33		2,099,570	
Proso Millet	1.03		259,680	
Rice	7.45		9,033,610	
Rye	1.71		235,060	
Sorghum for Grain	3.31		10,445,900	
Sorghum for Silage	23.21		3,222,320	
Wheat, All [2]	2.97		63,589,820	
Winter	3.14		46,458,800	
Durum	2.27		2,630,030	
Other Spring	2.67		14,500,980	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.59		685,950	
Cottonseed [3]			6,072,690	
Flaxseed	1.12		264,830	
Mustard Seed	0.81		35,100	
Peanuts	3.54		1,879,750	
Rapeseed	1.06		520	
Safflower	1.44		123,630	
Soybeans for Beans	2.25		65,795,340	
Sunflowers	1.36		1,208,930	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All [2]	0.81		3,967,810	
Upland	0.81		3,874,400	
Amer-Pima	1.30		93,400	
Sugarbeets	50.90		27,764,390	
Sugarcane	77.52		31,300,600	
Tobacco	2.24		377,030	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.25		7,890	
Dry Edible Beans	1.87		1,021,260	
Dry Edible Peas	1.77		235,960	
Lentils	1.15		110,770	
Wrinkled Seed Peas [3]			30,530	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.65		3,950	
Ginger Root (HI)	42.03		2,720	
Hops	2.13		24,750	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		3,140	
Potatoes, All [2]	41.15		20,821,930	
Winter	31.56	30.74	182,660	174,180
Spring	32.33		1,108,260	
Summer	36.29		870,850	
Fall	42.23		18,660,160	
Spearmint Oil	0.13		810	
Sweet Potatoes	19.31		722,160	
Taro (HI) [3]			2,270	

[1] Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2004 crop year. [2] Production may not add due to rounding. [3] Yield is not estimated.

Winter Weather Review

Highlights: February precipitation fell in drought areas of the Plains, West, and upper Midwest, reversing a prevailing pattern. Significant February precipitation also soaked the South, helping to dent or erase a 2-month dry spell. Winter wheat on the southern Plains was among the greatest beneficiaries of the late-winter soil moisture improvements, although major dust storms on December 15 and February 19 exhibited the seriousness of the region's long-term drought. Farther west, a late-season boost in high-elevation snow packs across the Great Basin, Intermountain West, and Southwest improved spring and summer runoff prospects but provided only limited relief from long-term drought and correspondingly low reservoir levels.

The only region cold throughout the winter months was the Southeast, where temperatures generally ranged from 2 to 4 degrees F below normal. Meanwhile in the Northeast, near-normal temperatures in December and February partially offset bitterly cold January weather. Farther west, winter opened on a mild note across the Plains and Midwest, followed by intermittent cold blasts in January and February. Nevertheless, winter temperatures averaged up to 4 degrees F above normal on the High Plains and as much as 6 degrees F above normal at a few locations in the upper Midwest. The West also experienced mild weather for most of December, followed by persistently colder-than-normal conditions for the remainder of the winter. Winter temperatures averaged as much as 6 degrees F below normal in portions of the Intermountain West.

December: Storms repeatedly battered the Northeast during the first 3 weeks of December, resulting in frequent bouts of heavy rain, snow, and high winds. Precipitation highlights were scarce, however, elsewhere east of the Rockies. Winter wheat areas in the lower Midwest retained plenty of moisture from previously heavy rainfall, while Southern winter grains and cool-season pastures received enough rain to promote generally normal development. Farther west, the Plains' winter wheat situation remained far from ideal. Although the Plains escaped December with relatively minor temperature fluctuations, subsoil moisture was limited. Occasional snowfall provided a boost in topsoil moisture on the northern and central Plains, but exceptional dryness persisted on the southern High Plains, where high winds on December 15 triggered a major dust storm. Farther west, wet weather along the Pacific Coast gradually pushed inland, especially toward month's end. Wetness in the West Coast States, initially confined to northern and central California and the Pacific Northwest, reached southern California's burned areas (from the October wildfires) by December 25, triggering several major mudslides. Farther inland, late-month storminess was more welcomed across the Intermountain West, where reservoir storage remained significantly below normal due to a multi-year drought.

Below-normal monthly temperatures were confined to the East, where an early- to mid-December cold snap helped to condition Florida's citrus trees. The cold spell culminated on December 21, featuring scattered temperatures near the freezing mark as far south as the northern Everglades. However, winter agricultural interests in central and southern Florida incurred minimal damage. Mild weather overspread the East toward the end of December, while most of the remainder of the Nation experienced a continuation of above-normal temperatures. An exception was the Southwest, where colder air at month's end brought the lowest temperatures in several years. On December 28 and 29, some winter crop producers in southern California and the Southwest had to take protective measures.

January: The coldest weather in many years gripped the Northeast, accompanied by occasional snowfall in the northern Mid-Atlantic States and relentless snow squalls downwind of the Great Lakes. While bitterly cold conditions were persistent in the Northeast, cold air made only two significant surges across the remainder of the United States. Across most of the Plains, the most impressive cold outbreak struck from January 4-6, followed by the Midwest's coldest spell toward month's end. On the Plains, significant precipitation was confined to a few relatively small geographic areas. Much-needed precipitation, mostly rain, spread onto the southern Plains from January 15-17, followed by a major snowstorm across the east-central Plains on January 25-26. Farther north, the last week of January featured heavy snow in northeastern Montana and parts of North Dakota. However, mostly dry conditions persisted on the High Plains from eastern Colorado and western Kansas northward into southern Montana, leaving a portion of the wheat crop regularly exposed to gusty winds and temperature fluctuations. In contrast, heavy rain soaked the Ohio Valley early in the month, causing some flooding in lowlands planted to winter wheat. Elsewhere in the eastern Corn Belt, soil moisture remained adequate to locally excessive. Farther west, however, unfavorably dry conditions persisted across the northwestern Corn Belt, although late-month snowfall provided beneficial moisture. Meanwhile, January precipitation was well below normal from the Delta to the southern Atlantic region, although the combination of cool weather and sporadic showers limited stress on pastures and winter grains. January rainfall was heavier in the western Gulf Coast region, while late-month downpours reduced irrigation demands in Florida's winter agricultural areas. In the West, mild, tranquil weather prevailed for most of the

month, following some early-January storminess. However, cold air remained trapped in many snow-covered valleys across the Intermountain West, resulting in persistently cold, foggy weather and air-stagnation problems. Prospects for winter grains continued to improve in the Northwest, where widespread precipitation and a late-month warming trend melted snow and boosted soil moisture reserves.

January temperatures averaged as much as 5 degrees F above normal on the central and southern High Plains and across the South-Central United States. In contrast, readings ranged from 3 to 7 degrees F below normal in eastern Montana and North Dakota and were slightly below normal across the remainder of the northern Plains, northern Corn Belt, and southern Atlantic States. Even colder weather was noted in parts of the Intermountain West, where temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F below normal in some valley locations, and the Northeast, where readings ranging from 5 to 10 degrees F below normal were widespread.

February: Important changes in the Nation's weather provided drought relief across the West, central and southern Plains, and upper Midwest. In addition, heavy precipitation across the South ended a 2-month dry spell. Western storminess boosted high-elevation snow packs and improved spring and summer runoff prospects in the Great Basin, Intermountain West, central and southern Rockies, and Southwest. Meanwhile, water-supply prospects remained favorable in California and the Northwest. Farther east, most winter wheat areas on the Plains benefited from increasingly wet weather, despite underlying subsoil moisture shortages. Some of the heaviest precipitation fell on the southern Plains, where a late-month warming trend promoted some wheat and pasture development. However, pockets of dryness persisted farther north, most notably across parts of Montana and the central High Plains. Elsewhere, the northern and western Corn Belt received substantial rain and snow, reducing long-term precipitation deficits. In contrast, mostly dry weather across the southern and eastern Corn Belt helped to eliminate pockets of excessive wetness. Across the South, a steady procession of storms aided pastures and winter grains but slowed pre-planting activities. Fieldwork delays were most pronounced west of the Delta, where monthly precipitation totaled more than 200 percent of normal.

Below-normal temperatures prevailed across the southern two-thirds of the Nation, excluding southern Florida, where near-normal readings prevailed. Chilly conditions were most pronounced from the Great Basin to the southern Rockies, where temperatures averaged as much as 8 degrees F below normal. In contrast, near- to slightly above-normal temperatures were observed across the Nation's northern tier. An exception was eastern Montana, where record-high snow depths helped to hold readings as much as 6 degrees F below normal.

Winter Agricultural Summary

Temperatures in the Corn Belt were above normal in December, but below normal through January and February. Precipitation was light across the northern and western parts of the region but moderate in the Ohio Valley. Snow cover accumulated and melted with fluctuating temperatures but remained mostly adequate for protecting winter wheat.

The northern and central Great Plains were very dry through most of the winter, though February brought light rain and some snowfall to parts of the region. Periods of unseasonably warm weather alternated with periods of extremely low temperatures. The warm periods melted much of the protective snow cover, providing some moisture for winter wheat but leaving the crop exposed to subsequent cold snaps. In the southern Great Plains, dry weather through the first half of the winter gave way to moderate but frequent precipitation through the end of February. Winter wheat recovered from what was thought to be severe drought stress, though some acreage was too far gone to benefit from the rain. By the end of February, corn, cotton, and sorghum producers in southern Texas had begun planting, but wet conditions limited progress.

The Mississippi Delta and Southeast had a wet, cold winter. Temperatures were consistently below normal throughout the season, providing beneficial chill hours to Florida's citrus trees. Freezing temperatures reached as far south as the Gulf Coast and central Florida on several occasions but did little damage to the citrus-growing area. Precipitation was moderate through December and January but heavy throughout February, particularly along the Gulf Coast and in the Mississippi Delta. Field preparation activities were severely hampered by wet conditions and many livestock producers reported problems with mud.

Along the northern and central Atlantic Coast, temperatures were below normal in January but near normal for the remainder of the season. Precipitation was light to moderate, with much of it in the form of snow and ice. Heavy snow covered the Northeast through most of the winter.

Temperatures in the Rocky Mountains alternated between above normal and below normal, resulting in variable and spotty snow cover across the northern and central parts of the region. Precipitation was light to moderate and widespread across the northern and central areas, while dry conditions prevailed in the south.

Precipitation was heavy along the coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest, but light in the crop-producing areas farther inland. Temperatures were mild through most of the winter, except in early January, when temperatures fell to well below normal. Snow cover in the region was mostly adequate for protecting winter wheat.

In the Great Basin, mild December temperatures yielded to below-normal temperatures through the remainder of winter, with extremely cold weather in the first half of February. Conditions were mostly dry throughout the season. Precipitation was heavy in northern parts of California, but southern parts of the State remained mostly dry. Temperatures stayed near normal across the State.

Corn: Growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2004, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt as growers are hoping to take advantage of higher corn prices. However, most States in the Southeast and southern Great Plains are intending to decrease their corn plantings as producers are switching to soybeans and cotton due to more favorable prices relative to corn. Expected acreage is down in Wisconsin as good winter weather conditions protected the alfalfa and winter wheat stands, resulting in lower demands for additional forage compared with last year. This, combined with good soybean prices, contributed to the decreased intended corn plantings in Wisconsin.

Farmers intend to plant 46 percent of their acreage with varieties developed using biotechnology, up 6 percentage points from 2003. If these intentions are realized, 27 percent of the acreage will be planted with varieties containing *bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), up 2 points from last year. Fourteen percent of the acreage will be planted with herbicide resistant varieties developed using biotechnology, up 3 points from 2003. Stacked gene varieties, those containing both insect and herbicide resistance, will be planted on 5 percent of the acreage, up 1 point from the previous year.

Sorghum: The 2004 intended sorghum acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 8.60 million acres, down 9 percent from last year. Sorghum acres declined or remained the same as last year in all States except California, Colorado, and South Dakota. The largest acreage declines are expected by growers in Texas and Kansas. In Texas, the intended sorghum area of 2.80 million acres is down 12 percent from the previous year. Field preparation and early plantings have been delayed due to early March rains in central and eastern Texas. Kansas producers intend to plant 3.40 million acres, down 4 percent from 2003. In South Dakota, where drought conditions have affected areas of marginal cropland, and with sorghum better suited to withstand dry conditions, the intended sorghum acreage of 350,000 acres is up 30 percent from last year. Colorado is expecting 340,000 acres, an increase of 26 percent from 2003, depending upon favorable weather conditions.

Oats: Acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2004 crop year are expected to total 4.31 million acres down 6 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.07 million acres for grain, down 7 percent from the 2003 harvested acreage of 2.22 million. States in the Great Plains, Mississippi Valley, and central Rocky Mountains expect to plant fewer acres compared to last year. Of the States expecting increases in planted acreage, California expects to plant 280,000 acres, up 8 percent from last year, and Wisconsin intends to plant 405,000 acres, up 7 percent from 2003.

Barley: Growers intend to plant 4.68 million acres for 2004, down 12 percent from last year. North Dakota's expected acreage, at 1.80 million, is also 12 percent below their 2003 planted area. Producers in Montana intend to plant 950,000 acres, down 14 percent from last year and the fewest since 1953. Idaho's intended acreage, at 700,000, is down 7 percent from 2003, while Washington's expected 290,000 acres is the fewest since 1974. Many Minnesota growers are planning to switch to corn or soybeans, and their intended barley acreage is down 42 percent, to 110,000 acres. In California, however, producers intend to plant 10 percent more acres than last year.

Winter Wheat: Planted area for the 2004 crop is 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Of the total, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.3 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres are White Winter. Moisture shortages remain a concern in the Plains States, especially in Kansas and Colorado where winter wheat condition declined during the winter. Acreage declined from last year across most of the country, except in the northern Great Plains, western Corn Belt, and parts of the Delta. The largest acreage declines are in the southern Great Plains, where dry fall conditions persisted during seeding.

Durum Wheat: Area seeded to Durum wheat is expected to total 2.76 million acres, down 5 percent from 2003. Seeding in the San Joaquin Valley of California progressed rapidly from October to December. Planting began in California's Imperial Valley in late November and continued into March with no major problems reported.

Other Spring Wheat: Growers intend to plant 13.3 million acres this year, down 4 percent from 2003. Of the total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. All major producing States intend to plant fewer acres than last year, except South Dakota. The largest declines are expected in Minnesota and North Dakota where growers continue to shift wheat acreage to corn and soybeans. Growers in Idaho intend to plant their lowest acreage since 1988.

Rice: Area intended for rice in 2004 is estimated at 3.26 million acres, up 8 percent from 2003 and up 1 percent from 2002. All producing States intend to plant more acres to rice in 2004 with the exception of Mississippi which intends to equal their 2003 acreage.

Long grain intended acreage, representing 78 percent of the total, is up 8 percent from last year. Medium grain intended acreage is up 7 percent from 2003 and represents 21 percent of the total. Area intended for short grain varieties declined 5 percent from 2003 and represents 1 percent of the total.

Hay: Producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres of all hay in 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Adequate soil moisture in most of Texas, lower Mississippi Delta, and Great Lakes States enhanced producers expectations to harvest more hay. Extreme dry conditions have left soil moisture very short and water supplies are expected to be inadequate in the central Great Plains and central Rocky Mountains, which decreased harvest intentions. In California, reduced water availability has lowered expected hay acreage in 2004.

Soybeans: Growers intend to plant an estimated 75.4 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record and a rebound from the three year decline in acreage.

Of the 31 soybean estimating States, producers plan to increase planted acres from last year in 24 States, remain unchanged from 2003 in 5 States, and decrease planted area in only 2 States. Estimated acreage increases of 200,000 or more are expected in Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, and North Dakota, with North Dakota producers intending to plant 550,000 more acres to soybeans than last year. Growers in the seven major producing States (IL, IN, IA, MN, MO, NE, and OH) planted 48.3 million acres, up 1 percent from 2003.

Current high prices are encouraging producers in most states to plant more soybeans. However, despite the current high soybean prices, many South Dakota producers intend to plant more wheat than last year and fewer soybeans, mostly due to the combination of the high wheat and low soybean yields in 2003.

Producers intend to plant 86 percent of the soybean acreage to herbicide resistant varieties in 2004, up 5 percentage points from 2003 and continuing the steady increase of herbicide resistant soybean seed use.

Peanuts: Producers intend to plant 1.37 million acres of peanuts in 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Of the nine producing States, six intend to plant more acres than in 2003. Southeast growers (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) intend to plant 933,000 acres, up 6 percent from last year. In the Virginia-North Carolina region, producers intend to plant 137,000 acres, up 1 percent from 2003. Growers in the Southwest (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) intend to plant 296,000 acres, 10 percent below 2003.

Sunflowers: Growers expect to plant a total of 2.09 million acres in 2004, down 11 percent from last year. Area intended for oil type varieties, at 1.80 million acres, is down 10 percent from 2003, and the non-oil varieties, estimated at 291,000 acres, are down 16 percent from last year.

North Dakota growers intend to plant 1.12 million acres in 2004, down 7 percent from 2003. Growers in South Dakota intend to plant 410,000 acres, down 19 percent from the previous year. Acreage decreases are also expected in Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Texas.

Canola: Producers intend to plant 965,000 acres in 2004, a decrease of 11 percent from 2003. This is the fourth consecutive year that canola acreage has declined in the United States. Producers in North Dakota and Minnesota intend to plant 850,000 and 60,000 acres, respectively.

Cotton: Area planted to all cotton for 2004 is expected to total 14.4 million acres, 7 percent more than last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 14.2 million acres, also up 7 percent. Growers intend to increase plantings of American-Pima cotton to 226,600 acres, a 27 percent increase from 2003.

Upland growers in the Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) intend to plant 3.75 million acres, a 5 percent increase from the previous year.

Producers in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and New Mexico intend to plant 6.50 million acres of upland, up 10 percent from 2003. Texas' upland area is intended at 6.10 million acres, a 9 percent increase from last year. Farmers in the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) intend to plant 3.15 million acres of upland cotton, a 4 percent increase from 2003.

Upland planted area in California and Arizona is expected to total 780,000 acres, a 2 percent increase from last year. California producers intend to plant 560,000 acres, 2 percent more than a year ago.

American-Pima acreage intentions are estimated at 226,600 acres, an increase of 27 percent from last year. The increase occurred primarily in California where producers intend to plant 200,000 acres, up 33 percent from the previous year. Arizona and Texas producers are planning to decrease planted acreage by 13 percent and 20 percent, respectively. New Mexico growers intend to plant 8,000 acres, up 1,900 acres from a year ago. Factors such as water availability, the cost of irrigating, and prices of upland relative to American-Pima will impact the final planting decisions.

Sugarbeets: Area planted to sugarbeets for the 2004 crop year is expected to total 1.36 million acres, slightly below the 2003 planted acreage. The four largest-producing States all expect acreage decreases from last year. These States and their acreage declines from last year are; Idaho down 11,000 acres, Michigan and Minnesota both down 6,000 acres, and North Dakota down 4,000 acres. Acreage increases are expected in Colorado, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming. In these States, the 2003 planted area declined due to a shortage of water, and the increases for 2004 represent a partial rebound from these levels.

Tobacco: U.S. all tobacco area for harvest in 2004 is expected to be 414,550 acres, down less than 1 percent from 2003 and 3 percent below two years ago. If realized, this would be the lowest harvested acreage since 1874. Expected harvested area for flue-cured, cigar binder, and cigar filler is down from last year. However, acres to be harvested of light air-cured, fire-cured, dark air-cured, and cigar wrapper are up from a year ago.

Flue-cured tobacco, at 231,200 acres, is 1 percent below a year ago. Flue-cured acreage accounts for 56 percent of this year's expected total tobacco acreage. Acreage in North Carolina, the leading flue-cured State, is down 1 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is also expected to decline in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida by 10 percent, 11 percent, and 5 percent, respectively. In Virginia, harvested acreage is expected to increase by 21 percent over last season. Tobacco producers in Virginia are expected to increase acreage to compensate for the lack of carryover into the 2004 season because of last year's low production.

Light air-cured tobacco types are up 1 percent from last year but 1 percent below 2002. Burley tobacco, at 157,200 acres, is up 1 percent from a year ago but 1 percent below two years ago. Area in 5 burley producing States is expected to increase from last year. These States are Kentucky, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and West Virginia which are up 1 percent, 8 percent, 9 percent, 2 percent, and 8 percent, respectively. In Tennessee and North Carolina, harvested acreage is expected to decrease 4 percent from 2003. Missouri is expecting no change in acreage from the previous year. Southern Maryland type tobacco area, at 3,000 acres, is up 7 percent from last year. Maryland's acreage dropped 33 percent from last year but Pennsylvania expects acreage to increase 54 percent from 2003. Maryland's acreage continues to drop due to the State's buyout program, while demand for Southern Maryland type tobacco in Pennsylvania is high.

Fire-cured tobacco types, at 11,620 acres, are up 4 percent from 2003. Tennessee and Kentucky producers expect to increase harvested acres over last year by 4 percent.

Dark air-cured tobacco types, at 4,130 acres, are 3 percent above last year's harvested acres and 8 percent above 2002. One sucker type tobacco, at 2,860 acres, is 4 percent above last year. Green River type tobacco and Sun-cured tobacco, at 1,200 acres and 70 acres, respectively, are both unchanged from 2003.

All cigar types, at 7,400 acres, are down 3 percent from last year but 10 percent above 2002. Connecticut and Massachusetts broadleaf acreage, at 2,350, is unchanged from the 2003 crop. Acreage of Pennsylvania seedleaf, at 2,200 acres, is down 8 percent from last year. Expected harvested acres of Wisconsin binder

tobacco are estimated at 1,700 acres, down 7 percent from last year. Connecticut and Massachusetts shade-grown tobacco, at 1,150 acres, is up 6 percent from a year ago.

Dry Beans: Prospective 2004 planting of dry beans in the U.S. totals 1.33 million acres, down 5 percent from last year and 31 percent below two years ago. Relatively low prices for the 2003 crop contribute to the expected reduction in planted acres. Growers expect to plant more dry bean acres than a year ago in 8 States, while acreage is expected to decline in 8 States. Acreage is intended to be the same in New Mexico and Wisconsin.

North Dakota farmers expect a 11 percent decline in dry bean acreage this year. Nebraska's prospective acreage is down 6 percent. California growers expect a 5 percent decline, while Texas dry bean acreage is expected to drop 46 percent. New York growers expect a 8 percent downturn if current plans are implemented. Kansas, Oregon, and South Dakota growers also expect their dry bean acreage to be down. The States that expect planting increases from a year ago are: Michigan, up 6 percent; Minnesota, up 4 percent; Colorado, up 6 percent; Idaho, up 7 percent; Washington, up 27 percent; Wyoming, up 3 percent; Montana, up 8 percent; and Utah, up 7 percent.

Planting is underway for California's garbanzo beans. Most States, however, will wait until late April through June for dry bean planting. Montana and Wyoming growers are hopeful the irrigation water supply is better than last year.

Sweet Potatoes: Growers intend to plant 98,300 acres of sweet potatoes in 2004, up 3 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2002. This intended increase in planted acreage is being driven by higher prices. Higher planted acreage than last year is expected for 4 States, 1 is unchanged, and 4 States are expected to decrease acres.

Transplant preparations are active in North Carolina, as most growers have planted their beds or have lined up sources for plants. North Carolina growers expect to increase planted acres by 2 percent. Mississippi and Louisiana intentions for sweet potatoes are up 7 and 5 percent, respectively. Planted acreage in Virginia is down 20 percent and Alabama growers plan to decrease acres 7 percent. Planting intentions in South Carolina are down 6 percent. New Jersey growers expect to plant the same as last year.

Planting intentions in California are up 6 percent from last year. California farmers continued to prepare hotbeds for plant development into March, after an earlier than usual start this year. Growing conditions have been good, with ample rainfall reported. Texas growers plan to decrease acres 6 percent this year. A shortage of irrigation water has forced many growers to cut back on planted acreage.

Reliability of Acreage Data in this Report

Survey Procedures: The acreage estimates in this report are based primarily on surveys conducted during the first 2 weeks of March. The March Agricultural Survey is a probability survey that includes a sample of nearly 73,000 farm operators selected from a list of producers that ensures all operations in the U.S. have a chance to be selected. These operators were contacted by mail, telephone, or personal interview to obtain information on crop acreage planned for the 2004 crop year.

Estimating Procedures: National, Regional, State, and grower reported data were reviewed for reasonableness and consistency with historical estimates. Each State Statistical Office submits their analysis of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). Survey data are compiled to the National level and are reviewed at this level independently of each State's review. Acreage estimates were based on survey data and the historical relationship of official estimates to the survey data.

Revision Policy: Acreage estimates in the "**Prospective Plantings**" report will not be revised. These estimates are intended to reflect grower intentions as of the survey period. New acreage estimates will be made based on surveys conducted in June when crop acreages have been established or planting intentions are firm. These new estimates will be published in the "**Acreage**" report scheduled for June 30, 2004. Winter wheat is an exception. Since winter wheat was seeded prior to the March survey, any changes in estimates in this report are considered revisions. The estimate of the harvested acreage of winter wheat will be published on May 12, 2004, along with the first production forecast of the crop year.

Reliability: The survey used to make acreage estimates is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors that are common to all surveys. Sampling errors represent the variability between estimates that would result if many different samples were surveyed at the same time. Sampling errors for major crops are generally between 1.0 and 3.0 percent, but they cannot be applied directly to the acreage published in this report to determine confidence intervals because the official estimates represent a composite of information from more than a single source.

Non-sampling errors cannot be measured directly. They may occur due to incorrect reporting and/or recording, data omissions or duplications, and errors in processing. To minimize non-sampling errors, vigorous quality controls are used in the data collection process and all data are carefully reviewed for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of acreage estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviations between the acreage estimates in this report and the final estimates are expressed as a percentage of the final estimates. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20-year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error." Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current estimates relative to the final end-of-season estimates, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimates are not different from those influencing recent years.

For example, the "Root Mean Square Error" for the corn planted estimate is 2.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current corn acreage estimate will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.5 percent.

Also, shown in the table is a 20-year record for selected crops of the difference between the **"Prospective Plantings"** planted acreage estimates and the final estimates. Using corn again as an example, changes between the intentions estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 1.13 million acres, ranging from 7,000 acres to 3.84 million acres. The prospective plantings estimates have been below the final estimate 6 times and above 14 times. This does not imply that the planted estimate this year is likely to understate or overstate the final estimate.

Reliability of Prospective Plantings Planted Acreage Estimates

Crop	Root Mean Square Error Percent	90 Percent Confidence Interval	20-Year Record of Differences Between Forecast and Final Estimate				
			Thousand Acres Quantity			Number of Years	
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Below Final	Above Final
			1,000 Acres	*1,000 Acres*	*1,000 Acres*	*Number*	*Number*
Corn	2.0	3.5	1,130	7	3,844	6	14
Sorghum	7.8	13.5	728	31	2,471	11	9
Oats	7.7	13.4	604	24	2,429	4	16
Barley	5.4	9.3	374	68	1,369	6	14
Winter Wheat	1.2	2.1	472	9	1,630	9	11
Durum Wheat	8.1	13.9	205	12	573	12	8
Other Spring Wheat	6.4	11.1	880	12	2,543	13	7
Soybeans	2.2	3.8	1,209	25	2,582	14	6
Upland Cotton	3.8	6.5	386	6	945	10	10

Information Contacts

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Debbie Flippin - Austrian Winter Peas, Dry Edible Peas, Lentils, Mint, Mushrooms, Peaches, Pears, Wrinkled Seed Peas	(202) 720-3250
Mike Miller - Berries, Grapes, Maple Syrup, Tobacco	(202) 720-7235
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