

ALFALFA SEED

Released: October 16, 1981
3:00 P.M. ET



Crop
Reporting
Board

Statistical Reporting
Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

ALFALFA SEED CROP UP 15 PERCENT

Alfalfa seed production is forecast at 117 million pounds (53.1 thousand metric tons) in 1981, up 15 percent from last year, and the highest in 10 years. Area for harvest at 380 thousand acres (154 thousand hectares) slipped 11 percent from last year to a 5 year low. However, the average seed yield is expected to be a record high 308 pounds per acre.

California, the Nation's leading alfalfa seed producer reported a jump of 38 percent over last year's production. Both acreage and yield were up sharply. Nevada seed farmers enjoyed nearly perfect harvest conditions and record high yields to push their production up one-third. In Washington, yields averaged 600 pounds per acre, with bumper crops coming from areas outside last year's Mt. St. Helenas fallout area. Utah and Idaho farmers had good growing and harvest weather until rains on late fields curtailed harvest.

The Great Plains States from North Dakota to Oklahoma continued to suffer the effects of last year's drought. Many fields were cut for hay, with acreage for seed being reduced in all States east of the Rockies. August rains curtailed seed set in Kansas and Oklahoma.

CARRYOVER AND SUPPLY

The total supply of alfalfa seed for the 1981-82 marketing year is indicated at 161 million pounds, 13 percent above a year ago. Farmer owned carryover on June 30, 1981 at 8.87 million pounds was up 3 percent, while dealers holding 34.7 million pounds were up 10 percent. Import summaries for July 1980 through June 1981 are not available at this time, but were low at 59 thousand pounds the year earlier. Exports totaled 9095 metric tons (20.1 million pounds) in 1980-81, up 2 percent from the previous marketing year.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION
1979, 1980 AND 1981

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	1979	1980	1981 <u>1/</u>	1979	1980	1981 <u>1/</u>	1979	1980	1981 <u>1/</u>
	ACRES			POUNDS			1,000 POUNDS		
CALIF	80,000	78,000	94,000	435	520	595	34,800	40,560	55,930
IDAHO	42,000	36,000	32,000	385	395	445	16,170	14,220	14,240
KANS	43,000	64,000	55,000	95	100	95	4,085	6,400	5,225
MONT	42,000	35,000	32,000	140	120	135	5,880	4,200	4,320
NEBR	27,000	33,000	25,000	65	75	70	1,755	2,475	1,750
NEV	18,000	17,000	17,000	405	450	600	7,290	7,650	10,200
N DAK <u>2/</u>	6,000	4,000		45	40		270	160	
OKLA	45,000	55,000	35,000	125	125	140	5,625	6,875	4,900
OREG	14,000	13,000	12,000	300	350	415	4,200	4,550	4,980
S DAK	130,000	60,000	50,000	55	70	55	7,150	4,200	2,750
UTAH	17,000	13,000	13,000	280	245	285	4,760	3,185	3,705
WASH	33,000	21,000	15,000	250	365	600	8,250	7,665	9,000
TOTAL ABOVE STATES	497,000	429,000	380,000	202	238	308	100,235	102,140	117,000

1/ INDICATED.

2/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED IN 1981.

ALFALFA SEED SUPPLY: UNITED STATES, 1979, 1980 AND 1981

STATE	1979	1980	1981 <u>1/</u>
	1,000 POUNDS		
PRODUCTION	100,235	102,140	117,000
FARM CARRYOVER <u>2/</u>	5,907	8,646	8,871
DEALER CARRYOVER	28,640	31,520	34,710
SUPPLY (PRODUCTION PLUS CARRYOVER)	134,782	142,306	160,581

1/ INDICATED.

2/ AS OF JUN 30TH INCLUDES GROWER-OWNED SEED STORED IN DEALER WAREHOUSES.

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