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Winter Wheat Seedings

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Planted Acres Up 2 Percent

Winter wheat seeded area for 2006 is expected to total 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from 2005. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 29.9 million; Soft Red Winter, 7.3 million; and White Winter, 4.2 million.

**Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, United States, 2004-2006
(Domestic Units)**

Item	Crop Year			2006 as Pct. of 2005
	2004	2005 ¹	2006	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	43,350	40,433	41,367	102

¹ Updated from "Small Grains 2005 Summary" released September 30, 2005.

**Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, United States, 2004-2006
(Metric Units)**

Item	Crop Year			2006 as Pct. of 2005
	2004	2005 ¹	2006	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter Wheat	17,543,310	16,362,830	16,740,810	102

¹ Updated from "Small Grains 2005 Summary" released September 30, 2005.

Winter Wheat: Planted area for harvest in 2006 is estimated at 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from 2005. Seeding began last August and was behind the 5-year average pace because of a lack of moisture in the southern Great Plains during September and much of October. Precipitation during mid-October relieved moisture concerns somewhat in major producing areas and allowed seeding to advance ahead of the 5-year average during the latter part of the month as mild and dry weather conditions prevailed. Nearly all of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1 with the exception of some intended acres in the Southeast and California. Seeding should finish this month in California. The winter wheat crop condition at the end of November was rated at 52 percent good to excellent compared with 76 percent last year.

Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is about 29.9 million acres, down 1 percent from 2005. Acreage was below last year's level in all HRW growing States except for Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. In Kansas, acreage increased due to supportive moisture supplies during September and October along with concerns about high fuel and fertilizer prices for spring planted crops. Growers in Texas and Oklahoma planted more acres this year despite concerns about the dry fall weather. In Texas, growers were able to increase seedings in the Blacklands from last year when excessive rain prevented many acres from being seeded. In contrast, acreage decreases occurred in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Montana despite excellent seeding and germination conditions in most areas.

Soft Red Winter (SRW) area, at about 7.3 million acres, is up 19 percent from last year. Large acreage increases occurred in most SRW growing States due largely to ideal planting and germination conditions. This was in contrast to last year when wet fall weather conditions prevented operators from planting all of the acreage that they would normally plant. Acreage was above last year's level in all States in the northern portion of the SRW growing area except for North Carolina and New Jersey due to supportive seeding conditions and moisture supplies. The acreage increase was most notable in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. In Wisconsin, planting area is at a record high level. Conversely, due largely to dry fall weather in the Delta and Southeast growing areas, acreage was at or below last year's level in all States except Georgia, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

White Winter wheat seeded area totals nearly 4.2 million acres, down 1 percent from 2005. Crop conditions varied across the three Pacific Northwest States (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) throughout the fall. Washington's planted acreage is unchanged from 2005 despite seeding beginning late and some early concerns about moisture supplies. In Idaho, frequent rains resulted in good emergence and stand development for the crop.

Durum Wheat: Seedings in Arizona and California for 2006 harvest are estimated at 145,000 acres. This total is down 6 percent from their 2005 level. Planting is ongoing in California's San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys. The crop's emergence has been slow due to dry weather. In Arizona, acreage is down due to the cost of fertilizer and concerns about low prices. No major problems with the crop have been reported.

This report was approved on January 12, 2006.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Charles F. Conner



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Carol C. House

Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 2004-2006

State	Crop Year			2006 as Pct. of 2005
	2004	2005 ¹	2006	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	120	100	100	100
AZ	5	5	4	80
AR	670	220	370	168
CA	560	495	430	87
CO	2,300	2,550	2,400	94
DE	50	52	48	92
FL	18	18	18	100
GA	330	280	300	107
ID	750	770	750	97
IL	920	630	860	137
IN	450	360	460	128
IA	28	20	25	125
KS	10,000	10,000	10,200	102
KY	530	390	390	100
LA	180	110	110	100
MD	160	155	180	116
MI	660	600	610	102
MN	27	20	30	150
MS	160	70	60	86
MO	1,050	590	1,000	169
MT	1,900	2,150	2,000	93
NE	1,850	1,850	1,750	95
NV	6	8	16	200
NJ	28	28	23	82
NM	490	450	440	98
NY	105	100	130	130
NC	600	560	550	98
ND	245	310	180	58
OH	920	860	990	115
OK	6,200	5,700	5,800	102
OR	820	830	800	96
PA	140	150	160	107
SC	190	170	140	82
SD	1,650	1,550	1,350	87
TN	400	240	300	125
TX	6,300	5,500	5,800	105
UT	130	145	135	93
VA	210	180	200	111
WA	1,800	1,850	1,850	100
WV	8	7	8	114
WI	240	200	250	125
WY	150	160	150	94
US	43,350	40,433	41,367	102

¹ Updated from "Small Grains 2005 Summary" released September 30, 2005.

Durum Wheat: Area Seeded, by State and United States, 2004-2006

State	Crop Year			2006 as Pct. of 2005
	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	100	80	70	88
CA	120	75	75	100
ID ³		20		
MN ⁴	1			
MT	570	590		
ND	1,750	1,980		
SD	20	15		
US	2,561	2,760		

¹ Updated from "Small Grains 2005 Summary" released September 30, 2005.

² Indicated 2006 area seeded for all six states will be published in "Prospective Plantings" released March 31, 2006.

³ Estimates began in 2005.

⁴ Estimates discontinued in 2005.

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