



Prospective Plantings

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Corn Planted Acreage Virtually Unchanged from 2002 Soybean Acreage Down 1 Percent All Wheat Acreage Up 2 Percent All Cotton Acreage Up 2 Percent

Corn growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001. Expected acreage is up in the eastern Corn Belt as growers are switching back to corn after planting soybeans last year when persistent wet weather in the spring prevented them from seeding corn. However, all States in the Great Plains, except North Dakota, are decreasing their intended corn plantings as continued drought conditions are expected to persist into the 2003 crop year.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 73.2 million acres of soybeans, down 1 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest planted area since 1998. This is the third consecutive year that soybean acreage has declined in the United States. Growers in most of the Corn Belt and central Great Plains States intend to plant fewer acres in 2003. Expected increases in acreage, offsetting some to the decreases were located in the northern Great Plains, upper Mississippi Valley, Atlantic Coast, and Delta regions.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres in 2003, up 2 percent from 2002. Winter wheat planted area for the 2003 crop is 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002. Of the total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres White Winter. The 2003 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 14.6 million, down 7 percent from last year. Of the total, about 13.8 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Area planted to Durum wheat is intended to total 2.83 million acres, down 3 percent from a year ago.

All Cotton plantings for 2003 are expected to total 14.3 million acres, 2 percent above last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 14.1 million acres, a 2 percent increase from 2002. Producers in the Southeast region and Arizona intend to decrease acreage from last year. All other cotton producing States intend to increase planted acreage, except for Oklahoma growers who intend to plant the same acreage as last year. American-Pima cotton growers intend to decrease their plantings to 200,000 acres, down 18 percent from 2002. The decrease is primarily in California, where producers are intending to plant 40,000 acres less than last year.

This report was approved on March 31, 2003.



Secretary of
Agriculture
Ann M. Veneman



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

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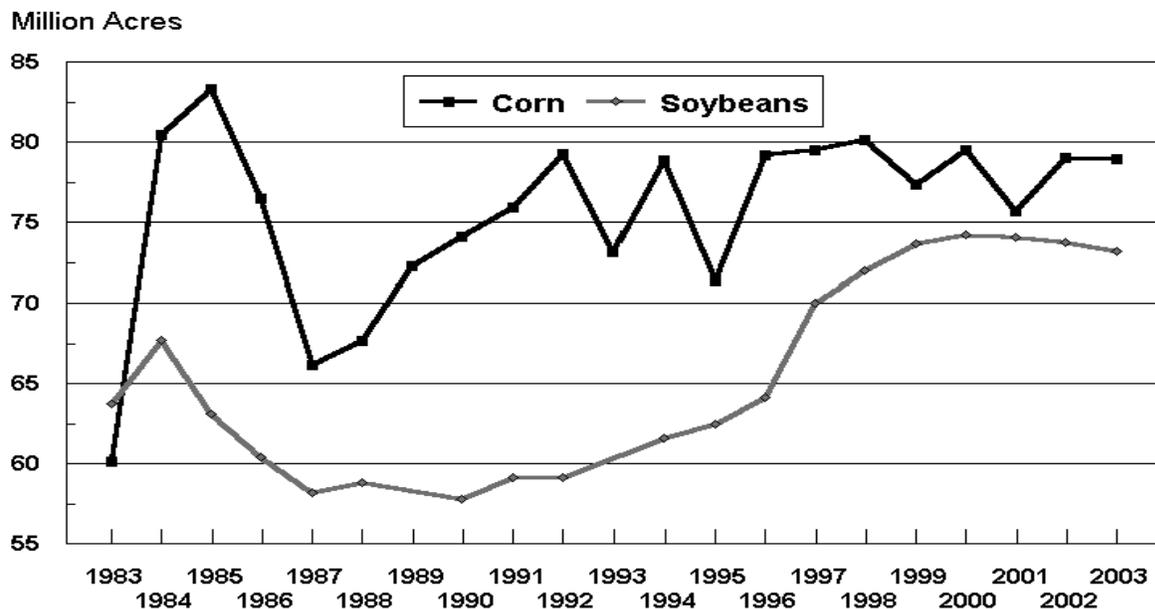
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Corn: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003

State	Area Planted			
	2001 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2002 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003 ¹ <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003/2002 <i>Percent</i>
AL	180	200	220	110
AZ	55	60	45	75
AR	190	270	350	130
CA	480	545	520	95
CO	1,220	1,200	1,000	83
CT	32	32	30	94
DE	170	180	170	94
FL	65	75	85	113
GA	265	340	370	109
ID	175	190	195	103
IL	11,000	11,200	11,300	101
IN	5,800	5,400	5,700	106
IA	11,700	12,300	12,300	100
KS	3,450	3,250	3,000	92
KY	1,200	1,130	1,250	111
LA	315	580	520	90
ME	28	29	29	100
MD	490	510	510	100
MA	22	22	22	100
MI	2,200	2,250	2,200	98
MN	6,800	7,200	7,400	103
MS	400	550	550	100
MO	2,700	2,800	2,900	104
MT	65	65	60	92
NE	8,100	8,400	8,200	98
NV	3	4	4	100
NH	15	16	15	94
NJ	80	90	80	89
NM	130	135	130	96
NY	1,030	1,040	1,050	101
NC	700	790	810	103
ND	880	1,230	1,350	110
OH	3,400	3,200	3,300	103
OK	250	240	200	83
OR	45	62	60	97
PA	1,500	1,450	1,450	100
RI	2	2	2	100
SC	260	320	340	106
SD	3,800	4,400	4,300	98
TN	680	690	740	107
TX	1,600	2,050	1,750	85
UT	60	55	60	109
VT	90	92	90	98
VA	470	500	510	102
WA	115	130	120	92
WV	50	50	45	90
WI	3,400	3,650	3,600	99
WY	90	80	90	113
US	75,752	79,054	79,022	100

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

U.S. Corn and Soybean Planted Acreage



Sorghum: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	12	10	12	120
AZ	12	15	17	113
AR	175	240	230	96
CA	10	15	10	67
CO	310	350	350	100
DE	2	2	1	50
GA	50	55	45	82
IL	80	80	90	113
KS	4,000	3,800	3,700	97
KY	11	12	14	117
LA	230	180	240	133
MD	9	5	6	120
MS	90	80	85	106
MO	230	190	230	121
NE	550	450	650	144
NM	170	170	150	88
NC	15	17	15	88
OK	500	430	350	81
PA	11	11	13	118
SC	8	6	9	150
SD	240	220	290	132
TN	30	35	35	100
TX	3,500	3,200	2,900	91
VA	7	7	9	129
US	10,252	9,580	9,451	99

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

**Oats: Area Planted and Harvested by State
and United States, 2001-2003¹**

State	Area Planted				Area Harvested			
	2001	2002	2003 ²	2003/2002	2001	2002	2003 ²	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	260	260	250	96	15	27	25	93
CO	80	65	100	154	32	8	37	463
GA	100	90	80	89	35	25	20	80
ID	130	125	125	100	20	25	30	120
IL	60	65	60	92	40	50	50	100
IN	25	20	20	100	16	14	12	86
IA	240	290	260	90	130	175	170	97
KS	100	140	150	107	40	60	65	108
ME	33	30	33	110	31	29	32	110
MI	70	80	80	100	55	65	65	100
MN	300	420	300	71	210	285	210	74
MO	40	65	55	85	20	35	28	80
MT	130	145	135	93	60	55	60	109
NE	155	175	190	109	60	55	65	118
NY	95	70	80	114	80	55	65	118
NC	60	75	55	73	30	35	25	71
ND	575	670	580	87	240	290	290	100
OH	100	70	80	114	85	60	60	100
OK	55	85	80	94	10	30	25	83
OR	55	80	75	94	25	35	30	86
PA	150	140	145	104	115	115	115	100
SC	50	50	60	120	25	30	30	100
SD	350	450	480	107	130	100	250	250
TX	725	750	800	107	160	160	140	88
UT	60	60	70	117	6	5	10	200
WA	30	35	35	100	12	10	15	150
WI	300	430	380	88	195	250	250	100
WY	75	70	70	100	28	15	30	200
US	4,403	5,005	4,828	96	1,905	2,098	2,204	105

¹ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

² Intended area planted and to be planted and area to be harvested for grain in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Barley: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003 ¹

State	Area Planted			
	2001 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2002 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003 ² <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003/2002 <i>Percent</i>
AZ	42	46	24	52
CA	160	130	130	100
CO	90	85	80	94
DE	29	25	25	100
ID	700	730	740	101
KS	9	8	9	113
KY	9	10	9	90
ME	27	27	27	100
MD	55	45	45	100
MI	21	20	20	100
MN	160	210	180	86
MT	1,100	1,200	1,200	100
NE	5	6	5	83
NV	4	4	5	125
NJ	5	4	4	100
NY	15	11	14	127
NC	28	31	20	65
ND	1,500	1,600	2,000	125
OH	6	6	12	200
OR	110	80	70	88
PA	70	70	75	107
SD	90	80	80	100
UT	85	70	70	100
VA	70	75	80	107
WA	430	350	310	89
WI	47	60	55	92
WY	100	90	90	100
US	4,967	5,073	5,379	106

¹ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

² Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

All Wheat: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003¹

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ²	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	170	150	120	80
AZ	94	99	119	120
AR	1,100	960	760	79
CA	615	625	710	114
CO	2,397	2,375	2,630	111
DE	60	60	50	83
FL	10	9	20	222
GA	300	350	380	109
ID	1,280	1,260	1,280	102
IL	750	680	800	118
IN	400	350	450	129
IA	25	20	20	100
KS	9,800	9,600	10,300	107
KY	550	550	480	87
LA	175	230	200	87
MD	190	195	165	85
MI	570	500	680	136
MN	1,867	2,040	1,978	97
MS	250	250	150	60
MO	900	900	880	98
MT	5,360	5,790	5,550	96
NE	1,750	1,650	1,750	106
NV	15	13	10	77
NJ	31	38	31	82
NM	500	520	500	96
NY	125	130	125	96
NC	680	650	530	82
ND	9,450	9,080	8,930	98
OH	950	860	1,000	116
OK	5,600	6,000	6,400	107
OR	910	950	1,090	115
PA	170	190	175	92
SC	220	210	220	105
SD	3,025	3,030	2,915	96
TN	500	470	450	96
TX	5,600	6,400	6,600	103
UT	160	155	172	111
VA	200	230	210	91
WA	2,490	2,420	2,450	101
WV	12	12	12	100
WI	178	198	212	107
WY	168	159	193	121
US	59,597	60,358	61,697	102

¹ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

² Intended planting for 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Winter Wheat: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003 ¹

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	170	150	120	80
AZ	6	10	4	40
AR	1,100	960	760	79
CA	530	530	610	115
CO	2,350	2,350	2,600	111
DE	60	60	50	83
FL	10	9	20	222
GA	300	350	380	109
ID	760	730	760	104
IL	750	680	800	118
IN	400	350	450	129
IA	25	20	20	100
KS	9,800	9,600	10,300	107
KY	550	550	480	87
LA	175	230	200	87
MD	190	195	165	85
MI	570	500	680	136
MN	15	35	25	71
MS	250	250	150	60
MO	900	900	880	98
MT	1,300	1,450	1,850	128
NE	1,750	1,650	1,750	106
NV	9	6	6	100
NJ	31	38	31	82
NM	500	520	500	96
NY	125	130	125	96
NC	680	650	530	82
ND	150	80	130	163
OH	950	860	1,000	116
OK	5,600	6,000	6,400	107
OR	750	800	970	121
PA	170	190	175	92
SC	220	210	220	105
SD	1,300	1,300	1,500	115
TN	500	470	450	96
TX	5,600	6,400	6,600	103
UT	140	140	160	114
VA	200	230	210	91
WA	1,850	1,800	1,850	103
WV	12	12	12	100
WI	170	190	205	108
WY	160	150	180	120
US	41,078	41,735	44,308	106

¹ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

Durum Wheat: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003 ¹

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ²	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	88	89	115	129
CA	85	95	100	105
MN	2	5	3	60
MT	510	590	600	102
ND	2,200	2,100	2,000	95
SD	25	30	15	50
US	2,910	2,909	2,833	97

¹ Includes area planted in preceding fall in AZ and CA.

² Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Other Spring Wheat: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	47	25	30	120
ID	520	530	520	98
MN	1,850	2,000	1,950	98
MT	3,550	3,750	3,100	83
NV	6	7	4	57
ND	7,100	6,900	6,800	99
OR	160	150	120	80
SD	1,700	1,700	1,400	82
UT	20	15	12	80
WA	640	620	600	97
WI	8	8	7	88
WY	8	9	13	144
US	15,609	15,714	14,556	93

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

**Rice: Area Planted by Class, State,
and United States, 2001-2003**

Class and State	Area Planted			
	2001 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2002 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003 ¹ <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003/2002 <i>Percent</i>
Long Grain				
AR	1,480	1,350	1,220	90
CA	13	7	5	71
LA	540	530	460	87
MS	255	255	255	100
MO	210	190	170	89
TX	215	205	190	93
US	2,713	2,537	2,300	91
Medium Grain				
AR	150	165	200	121
CA	435	500	500	100
LA	8	10	10	100
MO	1	0	0	
TX	1	1	1	100
US	595	676	711	105
Short Grain				
AR	1	1	2	200
CA	25	26	25	96
US	26	27	27	100
All				
AR	1,631	1,516	1,422	94
CA	473	533	530	99
LA	548	540	470	87
MS	255	255	255	100
MO	211	190	170	89
TX	216	206	191	93
US	3,334	3,240	3,038	94

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

All Hay: Area Harvested by State and United States, 2001-2003

State	Area Harvested			
	2001 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2002 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003 ¹ <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003/2002 <i>Percent</i>
AL	920	800	820	103
AZ	258	275	290	105
AR	1,320	1,375	1,375	100
CA	1,540	1,640	1,460	89
CO	1,600	1,350	1,500	111
CT	63	59	60	102
DE	17	15	15	100
FL	270	280	280	100
GA	650	650	630	97
ID	1,420	1,570	1,500	96
IL	800	800	700	88
IN	610	600	600	100
IA	1,650	1,600	1,700	106
KS	3,300	3,250	3,300	102
KY	2,350	2,400	2,400	100
LA	450	450	460	102
ME	130	133	135	102
MD	225	220	210	95
MA	98	93	95	102
MI	1,150	1,150	1,100	96
MN	2,150	2,300	2,350	102
MS	780	750	720	96
MO	4,050	4,260	4,400	103
MT	2,450	2,600	2,600	100
NE	3,250	3,250	3,100	95
NV	495	485	480	99
NH	57	55	60	109
NJ	120	115	115	100
NM	380	380	380	100
NY	1,660	1,720	1,900	110
NC	710	750	760	101
ND	2,700	3,300	2,400	73
OH	1,520	1,490	1,490	100
OK	2,550	2,740	2,600	95
OR	1,025	1,095	1,050	96
PA	1,650	1,800	1,900	106
RI	8	7	7	100
SC	320	330	320	97
SD	4,700	4,000	4,300	108
TN	2,135	2,030	1,950	96
TX	5,230	5,630	5,200	92
UT	710	710	710	100
VT	240	240	240	100
VA	1,310	1,370	1,370	100
WA	790	810	800	99
WV	580	570	570	100
WI	2,000	2,050	2,000	98
WY	1,130	950	1,150	121
US	63,521	64,497	63,552	99

¹ Intended area harvested in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Soybeans: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	140	170	150	88
AR	2,900	2,950	2,900	98
DE	205	190	185	97
FL	10	10	11	110
GA	165	160	155	97
IL	10,700	10,550	10,400	99
IN	5,600	5,800	5,600	97
IA	11,000	10,400	10,400	100
KS	2,850	2,750	2,500	91
KY	1,240	1,290	1,170	91
LA	640	790	850	108
MD	520	490	480	98
MI	2,150	2,050	2,000	98
MN	7,300	7,200	7,400	103
MS	1,160	1,440	1,500	104
MO	4,950	5,050	4,950	98
NE	4,950	4,700	4,650	99
NJ	103	100	100	100
NY	160	140	145	104
NC	1,380	1,360	1,400	103
ND	2,150	2,670	3,000	112
OH	4,600	4,750	4,500	95
OK	415	270	220	81
PA	400	365	370	101
SC	440	435	460	106
SD	4,500	4,250	4,250	100
TN	1,070	1,160	1,100	95
TX	260	230	210	91
VA	500	480	510	106
WV	17	18	16	89
WI	1,600	1,540	1,600	104
US	74,075	73,758	73,182	99

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Peanuts: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	200.0	190.0	180.0	95
FL	90.0	96.0	110.0	115
GA	515.0	510.0	500.0	98
NM	22.2	18.0	18.0	100
NC	123.0	101.0	90.0	89
OK	80.0	60.0	40.0	67
SC	11.0	10.0	11.0	110
TX	425.0	315.0	260.0	83
VA	75.0	58.0	35.0	60
US	1,541.2	1,358.0	1,244.0	92

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

**Sunflowers: Area Planted by Type, State,
and United States, 2001-2003**

Varietal Type and State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Oil				
CO	130	95	95	100
KS	300	200	190	95
MN	30	40	55	138
NE	52	45	40	89
ND	850	1,150	1,150	100
SD	670	535	530	99
TX	35	12	15	125
Oth Sts ^{2 3}	50	48	48	100
US	2,117	2,125	2,123	100
Non-Oil				
CO	65	35	30	86
KS	35	15	20	133
MN	30	30	35	117
NE	30	13	20	154
ND	220	220	200	91
SD	45	105	40	38
TX	73	30	37	123
Oth Sts ^{2 3}	18	12	12	100
US	516	460	394	86
All				
CO	195	130	125	96
KS	335	215	210	98
MN	60	70	90	129
NE	82	58	60	103
ND	1,070	1,370	1,350	99
SD	715	640	570	89
TX	108	42	52	124
Oth Sts ^{2 3}	68	60	60	100
US	2,633	2,585	2,517	97

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

² 2003 estimates carried forward from 2002. First 2003 estimate will be published in "Acreage" on June 30, 2003.

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, 2001-2003

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
MN	80	80	70	88
ND	1,300	1,300	1,100	85
Oth Sts ^{2 3}	114	79	79	100
US	1,494	1,459	1,249	86

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

² 2003 estimates carried forward from 2002. First 2003 estimate will be published in "Acreage" on June 30, 2003.

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, 2001-2003**

Type and State	Area Planted			
	2001 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2002 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003 ¹ <i>1,000 Acres</i>	2003/2002 <i>Percent</i>
Upland				
AL	610.0	590.0	580.0	98
AZ	295.0	215.0	200.0	93
AR	1,080.0	960.0	1,030.0	107
CA	630.0	480.0	540.0	113
FL	125.0	120.0	100.0	83
GA	1,490.0	1,450.0	1,400.0	97
KS	40.5	80.0	110.0	138
LA	870.0	520.0	530.0	102
MS	1,620.0	1,170.0	1,250.0	107
MO	405.0	380.0	410.0	108
NM	68.0	54.0	58.0	107
NC	970.0	940.0	900.0	96
OK	270.0	200.0	200.0	100
SC	300.0	290.0	250.0	86
TN	620.0	570.0	600.0	105
TX	6,000.0	5,600.0	5,800.0	104
VA	105.0	100.0	95.0	95
US	15,498.5	13,719.0	14,053.0	102
Amer-Pima				
AZ	7.8	8.0	7.0	88
CA	240.0	210.0	170.0	81
NM	5.2	7.1	7.0	99
TX	17.0	18.5	16.0	86
US	270.0	243.6	200.0	82
All				
AL	610.0	590.0	580.0	98
AZ	302.8	223.0	207.0	93
AR	1,080.0	960.0	1,030.0	107
CA	870.0	690.0	710.0	103
FL	125.0	120.0	100.0	83
GA	1,490.0	1,450.0	1,400.0	97
KS	40.5	80.0	110.0	138
LA	870.0	520.0	530.0	102
MS	1,620.0	1,170.0	1,250.0	107
MO	405.0	380.0	410.0	108
NM	73.2	61.1	65.0	106
NC	970.0	940.0	900.0	96
OK	270.0	200.0	200.0	100
SC	300.0	290.0	250.0	86
TN	620.0	570.0	600.0	105
TX	6,017.0	5,618.5	5,816.0	104
VA	105.0	100.0	95.0	95
US	15,768.5	13,962.6	14,253.0	102

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Sugarbeets: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003 ¹

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ²	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	46.6	50.0	50.5	101
CO	41.5	43.9	42.0	96
ID	199.0	212.0	210.0	99
MI	180.0	180.0	197.0	109
MN	468.0	505.0	487.0	96
MT	57.4	58.0	59.0	102
NE	48.6	57.0	42.0	74
ND	261.0	265.0	255.0	96
OH	0.8	1.8	1.8	100
OR	11.9	11.2	11.0	98
WA	7.2	4.0	4.0	100
WY	48.5	40.0	40.0	100
US	1,370.5	1,427.9	1,399.3	98

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 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Tobacco: Area Harvested by State and United States, 2001-2003

State	Area Harvested			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CT	2,300	1,850	2,200	119
FL	4,500	4,600	4,000	87
GA	26,100	26,500	29,000	109
IN	4,200	4,000	4,100	103
KY	115,700	112,200	106,500	95
MD	2,200	1,700	1,500	88
MA	1,140	1,150	1,250	109
MO	1,300	1,300	1,300	100
NC	161,700	169,300	160,000	95
OH	6,100	5,500	5,900	107
PA	3,100	3,400	3,400	100
SC	32,000	30,500	34,000	111
TN	39,690	35,900	34,040	95
VA	29,500	29,570	27,370	93
WV	1,300	1,300	1,300	100
WI	1,510	1,510	1,650	109
US	432,340	430,280	417,510	97

¹ Intended area harvested in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

**Tobacco: Area Harvested by Class, Type, State,
and United States, 2001-2003**

Class and Type	Area Harvested			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Class 1, Flue-cured				
Type 11, Old Belts				
NC	42,000	44,000	40,000	91
VA	20,500	21,500	20,000	93
US	62,500	65,500	60,000	92
Type 12, Eastern NC Belt				
NC	93,000	95,000	94,000	99
Type 13, NC Border & SC Belt				
NC	20,000	24,000	20,000	83
SC	32,000	30,500	34,000	111
US	52,000	54,500	54,000	99
Type 14, GA-FL Belt				
FL	4,500	4,600	4,000	87
GA	26,100	26,500	29,000	109
US	30,600	31,100	33,000	106
Total 11-14	238,100	246,100	241,000	98
Class 2, Fire-cured				
Type 21, VA Belt				
VA	1,200	800	800	100
Type 22, Eastern District				
KY	3,300	2,500	2,600	104
TN	6,500	5,000	5,100	102
US	9,800	7,500	7,700	103
Type 23, Western District				
KY	3,100	2,400	2,400	100
TN	520	400	410	103
US	3,620	2,800	2,810	100
Total 21-23	14,620	11,100	11,310	102
Class 3, Air-cured				
Class 3A, Light Air-cured				
Type 31, Burley				
IN	4,200	4,000	4,100	103
KY	105,000	104,000	98,000	94
MO	1,300	1,300	1,300	100
NC	6,700	6,300	6,000	95
OH	6,100	5,500	5,900	107
TN	32,000	30,000	28,000	93
VA	7,700	7,200	6,500	90
WV	1,300	1,300	1,300	100
US	164,300	159,600	151,100	95
Type 32, Southern MD Belt				
MD	2,200	1,700	1,500	88
PA	1,100	1,300	1,300	100
US	3,300	3,000	2,800	93
Total 31-32	167,600	162,600	153,900	95

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Tobacco: Area Harvested by Class, Type, State,
and United States, 2001-2003 (continued)**

Class and Type	Area Harvested			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Class 3, Air-cured				
Class 3B, Dark				
Air-cured				
Type 35, One Sucker				
Belt				
KY	2,750	2,100	2,200	105
TN	670	500	530	106
US	3,420	2,600	2,730	105
Type 36, Green River				
Belt				
KY	1,550	1,200	1,300	108
Type 37, VA Sun-cured				
Belt				
VA	100	70	70	100
Total 35-37	5,070	3,870	4,100	106
Class 4, Cigar Filler				
Type 41, PA Seedleaf				
PA	2,000	2,100	2,100	100
Class 5, Cigar Binder				
Class 5A, CT Valley				
Binder				
Type 51, CT Valley				
Broadleaf				
CT	1,300	1,250	1,500	120
MA	840	850	950	112
US	2,140	2,100	2,450	117
Class 5B, WI Binder				
Type 54, Southern WI				
WI	1,200	1,200	1,300	108
Type 55, Northern WI				
WI	310	310	350	113
Total 54-55	1,510	1,510	1,650	109
Total 51-55	3,650	3,610	4,100	114
Class 6, Cigar Wrapper				
Type 61, CT Valley				
Shade-grown				
CT	1,000	600	700	117
MA	300	300	300	100
US	1,300	900	1,000	111
All Cigar Types				
Total 41-61	6,950	6,610	7,200	109
All Tobacco	432,340	430,280	417,510	97

¹ Intended area harvested in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

**Dry Edible Beans: Area Planted by State
and United States, 2001-2003¹**

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ²	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	88.0	92.0	80.0	87
CO	115.0	92.0	85.0	92
ID	75.0	95.0	100.0	105
KS	15.0	18.0	14.0	78
MI	215.0	270.0	150.0	56
MN	115.0	170.0	140.0	82
MT	43.5	26.9	25.0	93
NE	160.0	185.0	160.0	86
NM	15.0	8.0	9.5	119
NY	23.0	25.0	30.0	120
ND	440.0	790.0	600.0	76
OR	10.0	9.8	10.0	102
SD	18.0	21.0	17.0	81
TX	30.0	37.5	33.0	88
UT	6.1	1.8	5.0	278
WA	34.0	41.0	25.0	61
WI	6.3	7.1	7.3	103
WY	27.0	32.0	32.0	100
US	1,435.9	1,922.1	1,522.8	79

¹ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

² Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Sweet Potatoes: Area Planted by State and United States, 2001-2003

State	Area Planted			
	2001	2002	2003 ¹	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	3.0	2.9	2.9	100
CA	10.0	10.4	10.1	97
GA ²	0.5			
LA	24.0	21.0	18.0	86
MS	16.7	16.0	14.0	88
NJ	1.2	1.2	1.0	83
NC	37.0	40.0	42.0	105
SC	2.0	1.7	1.6	94
TX	4.2	3.5	3.4	97
VA	0.5	0.5	0.5	100
US	99.1	97.2	93.5	96

¹ Intended plantings in 2003 as indicated by reports from farmers.

² Estimates discontinued in 2002.

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 81 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). Stacked gene varieties 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 at the U.S. level, is approximately 1.4 percent for all biotech varieties, 2.0 percent for insect resistant (Bt) only varieties, 3.4 percent for herbicide resistant only varieties, and 5.7 percent for stacked gene varieties. This means that chances are approximately 95 out of 100 that survey estimates will be within plus or minus 2.8 percent for all biotech varieties, 4.0 percent for insect resistant (Bt) only varieties, 6.8 percent for herbicide resistant varieties, and 11.4 percent for stacked gene varieties. Variability for the 31 soybean States is approximately 0.7 percent for herbicide resistant varieties. Variability for the 17 upland cotton States is approximately 1.3 percent for all biotech varieties, 6.1 percent for insect resistant (Bt) only varieties, 4.2 percent for herbicide resistant only varieties, and 4.3 percent for stacked gene varieties.

Corn: Biotechnology Varieties by State and United States, Percent of All Corn Planted, 2002-2003

State	Insect Resistant (Bt)		Herbicide Resistant	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
IL	18	24	3	4
IN	7	7	6	5
IA	31	38	7	5
KS	25	25	15	17
MI	12	13	8	9
MN	29	35	11	10
MO	27	29	6	8
NE	34	40	9	11
OH	6	7	3	3
SD	33	35	23	23
WI	15	21	9	9
Oth Sts ¹	14	16	12	13
US	22	26	9	9
	Stacked Gene Varieties		All Biotech Varieties	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
IL	1	1	22	29
IN	*	1	13	13
IA	3	4	41	47
KS	2	2	43	44
MI	2	1	22	23
MN	4	6	44	51
MO	2	3	34	40
NE	4	4	46	55
OH	*	*	9	10
SD	10	14	66	72
WI	2	2	26	32
Oth Sts ¹	2	2	27	31
US	2	3	34	38

* 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, 2002-2003**

State	Insect Resistant (Bt)		Herbicide Resistant	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	27	34	37	19
CA	6	4	26	28
GA	8	11	55	35
LA	27	31	9	14
MS	19	12	22	18
NC	14	12	27	38
TX	7	15	40	30
Oth Sts ¹	19	18	35	35
US	13	16	36	30
	Stacked Gene Varieties		All Biotech Varieties	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	26	39	90	92
CA	1	1	33	33
GA	30	43	93	89
LA	49	43	85	88
MS	47	48	88	78
NC	45	41	86	91
TX	4	5	51	50
Oth Sts ¹	32	33	86	86
US	22	24	71	70

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, 2002-2003**

State	Herbicide Resistant Only		All Biotech Varieties	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	68	79	68	79
IL	71	78	71	78
IN	83	91	83	91
IA	75	82	75	82
KS	83	84	83	84
MI	72	73	72	73
MN	71	75	71	75
MS	80	81	80	81
MO	72	80	72	80
NE	85	87	85	87
ND	61	70	61	70
OH	73	74	73	74
SD	89	90	89	90
WI	78	79	78	79
Oth Sts ¹	70	75	70	75
US	75	80	75	80

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

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2002-2003
(Domestic Units)¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	5,073.0	5,379.0	4,135.0	
Corn for Grain ²	79,054.0	79,022.0	69,313.0	
Corn for Silage			7,490.0	
Hay, All			64,497.0	63,552.0
Alfalfa			23,135.0	
All Other			41,362.0	
Oats	5,005.0	4,828.0	2,098.0	2,204.0
Proso Millet	450.0		220.0	
Rice	3,240.0	3,038.0	3,207.0	
Rye	1,395.0		286.0	
Sorghum for Grain ²	9,580.0	9,451.0	7,299.0	
Sorghum for Silage			352.0	
Wheat, All	60,358.0	61,697.0	45,817.0	
Winter	41,735.0	44,308.0	29,651.0	
Durum	2,909.0	2,833.0	2,703.0	
Other Spring	15,714.0	14,556.0	13,463.0	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,459.0	1,249.0	1,275.0	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	785.0		704.0	
Mustard Seed	191.0		175.0	
Peanuts	1,358.0	1,244.0	1,296.7	
Rapeseed	3.4		3.1	
Safflower	219.0		196.0	
Soybeans for Beans	73,758.0	73,182.0	72,160.0	
Sunflowers	2,585.0	2,517.0	2,205.0	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All	13,962.6	14,253.0	12,413.3	
Upland	13,719.0	14,053.0	12,171.0	
Amer-Pima	243.6	200.0	242.3	
Sugarbeets	1,427.9	1,399.3	1,361.0	
Sugarcane			1,026.1	
Tobacco			430.3	417.5
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	21.5		11.6	
Dry Edible Beans	1,922.1	1,522.8	1,726.9	
Dry Edible Peas	302.7		279.7	
Lentils	221.0		209.0	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			6.2	
Ginger Root (HI)			0.3	
Hops			29.3	
Peppermint Oil			80.2	
Potatoes, All	1,310.8		1,276.5	
Winter	15.8	15.6	15.7	15.5
Spring	87.8		86.1	
Summer	63.0		59.9	
Fall	1,144.2		1,114.8	
Spearmint Oil			18.0	
Sweet Potatoes	97.2	93.5	83.3	
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 2003 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, 2002-2003
(Domestic Units)¹

Crop	Unit	Yield		Production	
		2002	2003	2002	2003
				<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Grains & Hay					
Barley	Bu	54.9		226,873	
Corn for Grain	"	130.0		9,007,659	
Corn for Silage	Ton	14.0		104,979	
Hay, All	"	2.34		150,962	
Alfalfa	"	3.19		73,824	
All Other	"	1.86		77,138	
Oats	Bu	56.8		119,132	
Proso Millet	"	12.5		2,755	
Rice ²	Cwt	6,578		210,960	
Rye	Bu	24.4		6,985	
Sorghum for Grain	"	50.7		369,758	
Sorghum for Silage	Ton	9.5		3,360	
Wheat, All	Bu	35.3		1,616,441	
Winter	"	38.5		1,142,802	
Durum	"	29.4		79,450	
Other Spring	"	29.3		394,189	
Oilseeds					
Canola	Lb	1,218		1,552,520	
Cottonseed ³	Ton			6,419.3	
Flaxseed	Bu	17.9		12,569	
Mustard Seed	Lb	705		123,450	
Peanuts	"	2,561		3,320,490	
Rapeseed	"	1,461		4,530	
Safflower	"	1,520		297,980	
Soybeans for Beans	Bu	37.8		2,729,709	
Sunflowers	Lb	1,133		2,497,236	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops					
Cotton, All ²	Bale	663		17,145.0	
Upland ²	"	651		16,496.0	
Amer-Pima ²	"	1,286		649.0	
Sugarbeets	Ton	20.2		27,550	
Sugarcane	"	35.1		36,026	
Tobacco	Lb	2,068		889,632	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils					
Austrian Winter Peas ²	Cwt	1,414		164	
Dry Edible Beans ²	"	1,736		29,974	
Dry Edible Peas ²	"	1,517		4,242	
Lentils ²	"	1,200		2,508	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³	"			457	
Potatoes & Misc.					
Coffee (HI)	Lb	1,370		8,500	
Ginger Root (HI)	"	45,000		14,400	
Hops	"	1,990		58,336.6	
Peppermint Oil	"	85		6,818	
Potatoes, All	Cwt	363		463,214	
Winter	"	268	268	4,206	4,153
Spring	"	271		23,294	
Summer	"	309		18,486	
Fall	"	374		417,228	
Spearmint Oil	Lb	108		1,942	
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt	150		12,498	
Taro (HI) ³	Lb			6,100	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 crop year. ² Yield in pounds. ³ Yield is not estimated.

Crop Summary: Area Planted and Harvested, United States, 2002-2003
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2,052,990	2,176,830	1,673,390	
Corn for Grain ²	31,992,360	31,979,410	28,050,280	
Corn for Silage			3,031,130	
Hay, All ³			26,101,290	25,718,860
Alfalfa			9,362,500	
All Other			16,738,790	
Oats	2,025,470	1,953,840	849,040	891,940
Proso Millet	182,110		89,030	
Rice	1,311,200	1,229,450	1,297,840	
Rye	564,540		115,740	
Sorghum for Grain ²	3,876,930	3,824,730	2,953,830	
Sorghum for Silage			142,450	
Wheat, All ³	24,426,280	24,968,160	18,541,680	
Winter	16,889,740	17,931,000	11,999,460	
Durum	1,177,240	1,146,490	1,093,880	
Other Spring	6,359,300	5,890,670	5,448,340	
Oilseeds				
Canola	590,440	505,460	515,980	
Cottonseed				
Flaxseed	317,680		284,900	
Mustard Seed	77,300		70,820	
Peanuts	549,570	503,430	524,760	
Rapeseed	1,380		1,250	
Safflower	88,630		79,320	
Soybeans for Beans	29,849,130	29,616,020	29,202,430	
Sunflowers	1,046,120	1,018,600	892,340	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ³	5,650,520	5,768,050	5,023,540	
Upland	5,551,940	5,687,110	4,925,480	
Amer-Pima	98,580	80,940	98,060	
Sugarbeets	577,860	566,280	550,780	
Sugarcane			415,250	
Tobacco			174,130	168,960
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	8,700		4,690	
Dry Edible Beans	777,850	616,260	698,860	
Dry Edible Peas	122,500		113,190	
Lentils	89,440		84,580	
Wrinkled Seed Peas				
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)			2,510	
Ginger Root (HI)			130	
Hops			11,860	
Peppermint Oil			32,460	
Potatoes, All ³	530,470		516,590	
Winter	6,390	6,310	6,350	6,270
Spring	35,530		34,840	
Summer	25,500		24,240	
Fall	463,050		451,150	
Spearmint Oil			7,280	
Sweet Potatoes	39,340	37,840	33,710	
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 2003 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, 2002-2003
(Metric Units)¹

Crop	Yield		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
Grains & Hay				
Barley	2.95		4,939,580	
Corn for Grain	8.16		228,805,080	
Corn for Silage	31.42		95,235,350	
Hay, All ²	5.25		136,950,420	
Alfalfa	7.15		66,972,010	
All Other	4.18		69,978,420	
Oats	2.04		1,729,200	
Proso Millet	0.70		62,480	
Rice	7.37		9,568,990	
Rye	1.53		177,430	
Sorghum for Grain	3.18		9,392,290	
Sorghum for Silage	21.40		3,048,140	
Wheat, All ²	2.37		43,992,310	
Winter	2.59		31,101,970	
Durum	1.98		2,162,270	
Other Spring	1.97		10,728,070	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.36		704,210	
Cottonseed ³			5,823,490	
Flaxseed	1.12		319,270	
Mustard Seed	0.79		56,000	
Peanuts	2.87		1,506,150	
Rapeseed	1.64		2,050	
Safflower	1.70		135,160	
Soybeans for Beans	2.54		74,290,500	
Sunflowers	1.27		1,132,730	
Cotton, Tobacco & Sugar Crops				
Cotton, All ²	0.74		3,732,880	
Upland	0.73		3,591,580	
Amer-Pima	1.44		141,300	
Sugarbeets	45.38		24,992,940	
Sugarcane	78.70		32,682,240	
Tobacco	2.32		403,530	
Dry Beans, Peas & Lentils				
Austrian Winter Peas	1.58		7,440	
Dry Edible Beans	1.95		1,359,600	
Dry Edible Peas	1.70		192,410	
Lentils	1.35		113,760	
Wrinkled Seed Peas ³			20,730	
Potatoes & Misc.				
Coffee (HI)	1.54		3,860	
Ginger Root (HI)	50.44		6,530	
Hops	2.23		26,460	
Peppermint Oil	0.10		3,090	
Potatoes, All ²	40.67		21,011,030	
Winter	30.03	30.03	190,780	188,380
Spring	30.32		1,056,600	
Summer	34.59		838,510	
Fall	41.95		18,925,140	
Spearmint Oil	0.12		880	
Sweet Potatoes	16.82		566,900	
Taro (HI) ³			2,770	

¹ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2003 crop year. ² Production may not add due to rounding. ³ Yield is not estimated.

Winter Weather Review

Highlights: Given the presence of warm-phase conditions in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific (El Niño), one of the big surprises was the persistently cold weather across the eastern one-third of the Nation, for reasons unrelated to El Niño. The other surprise was the nearly total lack of significant storminess in January. December and February exhibited weather patterns more typical of El Niño, with frequent storminess in a broad swath across the South and East and drier-than-normal weather farther north in portions of the Plains and much of the Midwest. The stormy weather pattern during December and February was enough to overcome a very dry January, resulting in above-normal winter precipitation from the Rio Grande Valley northeastward into lower New England. The West received only sporadic and disappointingly light precipitation, except for above-normal seasonal precipitation along the Pacific Northwest coast and in eastern Washington.

The Eastern chill held winter temperatures generally 2 to 6 degrees F below normal. Southern Florida escaped a late-January brush with cold weather with minimal damage to citrus and winter ground crops. Farther west, temperatures from the Plains to the Mississippi River averaged a few degrees either side of normal, despite a cold February. Some locations across the northern High Plains and upper Midwest were as much as 4 degrees F above normal. The winter was warmer than normal from the Rockies westward, with temperatures ranging from slightly above normal in the Southwest to as much as 6 degrees F above normal in the Northwest.

December: An El Niño-driven weather pattern featured heavy precipitation in the West Coast States and across the South, but mild, mostly dry weather from the northern half of the Plains to the upper Great Lakes region. Although precipitation aided winter grains and boosted high-elevation snowpacks across northern California and the Northwest, mostly dry weather persisted in drought-affected areas from the Southwest to the central Rockies. Meanwhile, mild weather on the Plains benefited the dormant winter wheat crop. Rain and snow boosted soil moisture reserves on the southern Plains, but dry weather depleted soil moisture and left wheat exposed to potential weather extremes on the northern and central High Plains. In the Corn Belt, mild, dry weather favored off-season fieldwork across the upper Midwest, while rain and snow replenished soil moisture from the Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region. Persistent rains across the South caused fieldwork delays, triggered lowland flooding, and left some winter grains in standing water. Meanwhile, rain and snow eradicated lingering long-term drought in the Atlantic Coast States.

Below-normal temperatures were confined to the South and East, where readings averaged as much as 5 degrees F below normal. In contrast, warmer-than-normal weather prevailed from the Northwest to the upper Midwest, boosting temperatures as much as 10 degrees F above normal. Little or no moisture accompanied the mild weather across the northern Plains and upper Midwest, but at least 8 to 12 inches of precipitation soaked many locations in northern California, the Pacific Northwest, the central part of Florida's peninsula, and areas from eastern Texas to the southern Appalachians.

January: The influence of El Niño on mainland U.S. weather patterns temporarily waned during January, despite the continuation of warm-episode conditions in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean. In fact, the Nation experienced its second-driest January on record, according to preliminary data from the National Climatic Data Center. Unusually wet weather was confined to parts of the Northwest, but drought remained a major concern elsewhere from the Rockies westward. East of the Sierra Nevada and Cascades, dismal runoff prospects for the remainder of 2003, low reservoir levels, and drought-damaged rangelands were among the most serious effects of long-term Western precipitation deficits. Unfavorably dry weather also persisted on the drought-affected northern and central High Plains. Just enough snow fell on the northern Plains in advance of a mid- to late-month cold outbreak to help protect winter wheat from temperatures as low as -30 degrees F. In contrast, mild weather prevailed for the entire month on the central Plains, benefiting overwintering wheat despite dry soils and minimal snow. Dry weather and developing drought in the Corn Belt had little effect on Midwestern agriculture but hampered upper Mississippi Valley river traffic due to low water levels and curtailed snow-dependent recreational activities. Meanwhile in the South, dry weather permitted an acceleration of fieldwork, following an excessively wet spell in late 2002. By month's end, however, irrigation requirements for winter grains increased in the southern Atlantic region as far north as southern Georgia. Farther north, heavy, early-month precipitation in the Northeast was followed by cold weather and several mostly light snowfalls.

January temperatures ranged from 4 to 12 degrees F above normal across most of the West and High Plains and averaged as much as 4 degrees F above normal in the upper Midwest. In contrast, monthly readings ranged from 4 to 10 degrees F below normal in Florida and were as much as 6 degrees F below normal

elsewhere in the South. Cool January weather helped to acclimate Florida's citrus trees in advance of the January 24-25 freezes and added beneficial chill hours for fruit trees elsewhere in the Southeast. Monthly temperatures were mostly 2 to 8 degrees F below normal across the eastern one-third of the Nation, including the eastern Corn Belt and the Northeast.

February: Following an uncharacteristically tranquil January, much of the Nation experienced a return to stormy weather in February. Specifically, wet weather re-developed across the South (excluding southern Florida and portions of the southern High Plains), while some locations from the Ohio Valley to the northern Mid-Atlantic States and southern New England endured record-setting snowfall totals. Southern wetness slowed or halted spring planting preparations from the western Gulf Coast region to the southern Atlantic States, including the Delta. Farther north, however, drought gradually intensified in parts of the Midwest, primarily from northern Missouri to Lower Michigan. Meanwhile, the Plains received varying amounts of precipitation. Dryness persisted across northern Texas, but late-month snowfall on the central Plains boosted soil moisture reserves and insulated the winter wheat crop from a late-season cold snap. On the northern Plains, however, only a shallow snow cover protected wheat from temperatures as low as -30 degrees F. Elsewhere, areas from the Southwest to the Rockies received beneficial precipitation that boosted topsoil moisture and mountain snow packs, but provided only limited relief from long-term drought. Much of the West faces water-supply concerns due to the combination of already-low reservoir levels, near- to below-normal snow packs, and poor spring and summer runoff prospects.

Monthly temperatures were within a few degrees of normal west of the Rockies and up to 4 degrees F above normal in southern Florida, but significantly below normal elsewhere. The coldest areas, relative to normal, were the Plains, Midwest, and Northeast, where monthly readings ranging from 2 to 10 degrees F below normal maintained stress on livestock.

Winter Agricultural Summary

Seasonally heavy precipitation in the low, coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest alleviated dry soil conditions. Abnormally dry soil conditions remained across much of the Southwest, Rocky Mountains, and Great Plains regions. Snowpack measurements were below normal in most locations. Temperatures in the eastern third of the nation were generally below normal while temperatures in the rest of the country ranged from near to slightly above normal.

The northern and central Great Plains, upper and middle Mississippi Valley, and western Great Lakes regions experienced drier than normal conditions with little snowcover. Due to the lack of snowcover, winter wheat and alfalfa in some areas were exposed to wind-blown soil and extreme temperature fluctuations. These fluctuations included several brief periods of bitter cold and many record and near record highs.

January was relatively dry from the Texas Panhandle through the Delta and Southeast regions, across the Tennessee Valley and northeast to New England. This allowed for normal fieldwork to proceed in most southern areas. However December and especially February brought heavy precipitation to these areas, saturating fields and halting fieldwork. The precipitation essentially ended the drought across this wide expanse, except for a narrow band running through Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas also experienced a severe ice storm in late February.

In California, warm weather and ample moisture supplies stimulated development of winter crops. Field and orchard work progressed with few interruptions. The warm daytime temperatures also accelerated the bloom cycle in early varieties of peaches and nectarines. Timely rains in California's southern San Joaquin Valley provided good moisture for growth of dryland grain and hay crops. Weather conditions for almond pollination were less than ideal. Pastures were in good overall condition, with the best conditions reported in the northern half of the State.

In the Corn Belt, conditions were warmer than average. Precipitation was below normal across most of the Corn Belt, while the Ohio Valley and eastern Great Lakes region received above-normal precipitation.

Cold weather briefly halted growth of winter grains and forages in Florida but sub-freezing temperatures were not sustained long enough to damage the citrus crop. Many citrus growers irrigated on a rotating basis to maintain soil moisture and ensure good tree condition during the bloom cycle. Soil moisture supplies were rated short to mostly adequate. In southern Florida, the sugarcane harvest and work in vegetable fields continued with few delays.

Corn: Growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001. Expected acreage is up in the eastern Corn Belt as growers are switching back to corn after planting soybeans last year when persistent wet weather in the spring prevented them from seeding corn. However, all States in the Great Plains, except North Dakota, are decreasing their intended corn plantings as continued drought conditions are expected to persist into the 2003 crop year.

Farmers intend to plant 38 percent of their acreage with varieties developed using biotechnology, up 4 percentage points from 2002. If these intentions are realized, 26 percent of the acreage will be planted with varieties containing *bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), up 4 points from last year. Nine percent of the acreage will be planted with herbicide resistant varieties developed using biotechnology, unchanged from 2002. Stacked gene varieties, those containing both insect and herbicide resistance from biotechnology, will be planted on 3 percent of the acreage, up 1 point from the previous year.

Sorghum: The 2003 intended sorghum acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 9.45 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. The largest acreage declines are expected by growers in Kansas and Texas. Kansas producers intend to plant 3.70 million acres, 3 percent less than last year. In Texas, where soil preparation and early planting have been delayed by wet conditions and rains, the intended sorghum acreage of 2.90 million acres is down 9 percent from 2002. Sorghum acres are expected to increase in the Northern Great Plains where farmers are anticipating continued dry conditions. Nebraska is expecting 650,000 acres to be planted, an increase of 44 percent from last year.

Oats: Acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2003 crop year are expected to total 4.83 million, down 4 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.20 million acres for grain, 5 percent more than the 2002 harvested acreage of 2.10 million. Acres for grain are up in the central and northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States.

Barley: Growers intend to seed 5.38 million acres for 2003, up 6 percent from a year ago. The intended acreage in North Dakota is up 400,000 acres from last year. Montana's barley acreage is expected to be unchanged from last year with producers experiencing an ongoing drought. Fewer acres are expected in the Pacific Northwest States where dry conditions and concerns over water availability exist in some areas. Washington State's intended acreage is down 11 percent, the lowest since 1995, while Oregon expects its lowest planted area on record.

Winter Wheat: Planted area for the 2003 crop is 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002. Of the total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres White Winter. The Texas and Oklahoma crop fared well over the winter, but soil moisture was becoming short in recent weeks. However, dry weather has hampered the crop in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Although precipitation was also below normal in Montana, the crop was actually in better condition than one year ago, based on condition ratings at the end of February.

Durum Wheat: Area seeded to Durum wheat is expected to total 2.83 million acres, down 3 percent from 2002. 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.

Other Spring Wheat: Growers intend to plant 14.6 million acres this year, down 7 percent from 2002. Of the total, about 13.8 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. All major producing States intend to plant fewer acres this year. The largest acreage decline is expected in Montana, where growers planted significant acreage following abandoned winter wheat last year.

Rice: Area intended for rice in 2003 is estimated at 3.04 million acres, down 6 percent from 2002 and down 9 percent from 2001. All producing States intend to plant fewer acres to rice in 2003 with the exception of Mississippi which intends to equal their 2002 acreage.

Long grain intended acreage, representing 76 percent of total, is down 9 percent from last year. Medium grain intended acreage is up 5 percent from 2002 and represents 23 percent of the total. Area intended for short grain varieties showed no change from 2002.

Hay: Producers expect to harvest 63.6 million acres of all hay in 2003, down 1 percent from 2002. Harvested acres for 2003 are expected to decrease in 17 States. North Dakota, down 900,000 acres, has the largest decrease following the drought conditions last year which resulted in more Conservation Reserve Program land and small grain acres harvested for hay. Hay acres in Texas dropped 430,000 acres from the

record high acreage last year. Reduced water availability for irrigating hay is lowering growers' expectations in the Pacific Coast States .

Soybeans: Growers intend to plant an estimated 73.2 million acres of soybeans, down 1 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest planted area since 1998. This is the third consecutive year that soybean acreage has declined in the United States.

The largest acreage declines are expected in Kansas and Ohio, both down 250,000 acres from 2002. Growers in most of the Corn Belt and central Great Plains States also intend to plant fewer acres in 2003. States expecting increases in acreage, offsetting some of the decreases, are North Dakota and Minnesota, up 330,000 and 200,000 acres, respectively. Other States expected to increase acreage from last year were located along the Atlantic Coast and Delta region.

Producers intend to plant 80 percent of the soybean acreage to herbicide resistant varieties in 2003, up 5 percentage points from 2002.

Peanuts: Producers intend to plant 1.24 million acres of peanuts in 2003, down 8 percent from one year ago. Of the nine producing States, six intend to plant fewer acres than in 2002. Florida and South Carolina intend to plant more acres, while New Mexico intends to show no change in planted area from 2002. Producers continue to adjust to the peanut provisions adopted in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Southeast growers (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) intend to plant 801,000 acres, down 1 percent from a year ago. In the Virginia-North Carolina region producers intend to plant 125,000 acres, down 21 percent from 2002. Growers in the Southwest (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) intend to plant 318,000 acres, 19 percent below 2002.

Sunflowers: Growers expect to plant a total of 2.52 million acres in 2003, down 3 percent from last year. Acres intended for oil type varieties, at 2.12 million acres, are virtually unchanged from the 2002 acreage, while the non-oil varieties, estimated at 394,000 acres, are down 14 percent from last year.

North Dakota growers intend to plant 1.35 million acres in 2003, down 1 percent from 2002. Growers in South Dakota intend to plant 570,000 acres, down 11 percent from the previous year. Acreage decreases are also expected in Colorado and Kansas while acreage in Minnesota, Nebraska, and Texas is expected to increase from last year.

Canola: Producers intend to plant 1.25 million acres in 2003, a decrease of 14 percent from 2002. This is the third consecutive year that canola acreage has declined in the United States. Producers in North Dakota and Minnesota intend to plant 1.10 million and 70,000 acres, respectively.

Cotton: Area planted to all cotton for 2003 is expected to total 14.3 million acres, 2 percent more than last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 14.1 million acres, also up 2 percent. Growers intend to decrease plantings of American-Pima cotton to 200,000 acres, an 18 percent decline from a year ago.

Upland growers in the Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) intend to plant 3.82 million acres, a 6 percent increase from the previous year. Producers in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and New Mexico intend to plant 6.17 million acres, up 4 percent. Farmers in the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) intend to plant 3.33 million acres of upland cotton, a 5 percent decrease from 2002.

Upland planted acreage in California and Arizona is expected to total 740,000 acres, a 6 percent increase from last year. California producers intend to plant 540,000 acres, 13 percent more than a year ago.

American-Pima acreage intentions are reported at 200,000 acres, a decrease of 18 percent from last year. The decrease occurred in all Pima estimating States, with California producers intending to plant 40,000 acres less than last year. Arizona and Texas producers are decreasing planted acreage by 12 percent and 14 percent, respectively. New Mexico growers intend to plant 7,000 acres, down slightly from last year. Growers are encouraged by the recent upturn in upland cotton prices and are switching to upland varieties. Uncertainty with water availability also contributed to lower intended Pima acreage.

Sugarbeets: Area planted to sugarbeets for the 2003 crop year is expected to total 1.40 million acres, 2 percent below the 2002 planted area. Minnesota and North Dakota, expecting 487,000 and 255,000 acres respectively, are both down 4 percent from last year. Michigan is expecting a 9 percent increase in acreage, planting 197,000 acres in 2003.

Tobacco: U.S. all tobacco area for harvest in 2003 is expected to be 417,510 acres, down 3 percent from both the 2002 and 2001 crops. If realized, this would be the lowest harvested acreage since 1874. Expected harvested area for flue-cured and light air-cured is down from last year. However, acres to be harvested of fire-cured, dark air-cured, cigar binder, and cigar wrapper are up from a year ago. Cigar filler is unchanged from 2002.

Flue-cured tobacco, at 241,000 acres, is 2 percent below a year ago. Flue-cured acreage accounts for 58 percent of this year's expected total tobacco acreage. Acreage in North Carolina, the leading flue-cured State, is down 6 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is also expected to decline in Virginia and Florida by 7 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Plans for flue-cured tobacco in Georgia are up 9 percent over last season, while South Carolina expects an 11 percent increase in harvested acres. Acreage in these two States is expected to increase to compensate for the low 2002 production and lack of carryover into the 2003 season.

Light air-cured tobacco types are down 5 percent from last year and 8 percent below 2001. Burley tobacco, at 151,100 acres, is down 5 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. Four burley producing States expect a decline in acres from last year. These States are North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia which are down 5 percent, 6 percent, 7 percent, and 10 percent, respectively. Two States are expecting increased acres. Indiana is up 3 percent from 2002 and Ohio is up 7 percent. Missouri and West Virginia are expecting no change in acreage from the previous year. Southern Maryland type tobacco acres are estimated at 2,800 acres, down 7 percent from last year. Maryland's acreage dropped 12 percent from last year but Pennsylvania expects no change from 2002.

Fire-cured tobacco types, at 11,310 acres, are up 2 percent from 2002. The leading States of Tennessee and Kentucky are both expected to increase harvested acres over last year by 2 percent.

Dark Air-cured tobacco types, at 4,100 acres, are 6 percent above last year's harvested acres but 19 percent below 2001. One sucker type tobacco, at 2,730 acres, is 5 percent above last year and Green River type tobacco, at 1,300 acres, is 8 percent above 2002. Sun-cured is unchanged from last year but down 30 percent from 2001.

All cigar types, at 7,200 acres, are up 9 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2001. Acreage of Pennsylvania seedleaf, at 2,100 acres, is unchanged from last year. However, Connecticut and Massachusetts broadleaf acreage, at 2,450, is up 17 percent from the 2002 crop. Expected harvested acres of Connecticut and Massachusetts shade-grown tobacco are estimated to be 1,000, up 11 percent from a year ago. Wisconsin binder tobacco, at 1,650 acres, is up 9 percent from last year.

Dry Beans: Prospective 2003 planting of dry beans in the U.S. totals 1.52 million acres, down 21 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago. Low prices for the 2002 crop pushed planting intentions down in 11 of the 18 major producing States. Six States expect to plant more dry bean acres than a year ago, while acreage is intended to be the same in Wyoming.

Michigan farmers expect a 44 percent decline in dry bean acreage this year. Washington's prospective acreage is down 39 percent. North Dakota growers expect a 24 percent decline, Minnesota dry bean acreage is expected to decline 18 percent, and Nebraska growers expect a 14 percent downturn if current plans are carried out. California, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, South Dakota, and Texas also expect their dry bean acreage to be down. The States that expect planting increases from a year ago are: Idaho, up 5 percent; New Mexico, up 19 percent; Utah, up nearly triple from last year's drought affected crop; Oregon, up 2 percent; Wisconsin, up 3 percent; and New York, up 20 percent.

Planting is ready to go for California's early classes. Most States, however, will wait until late April through June for dry bean planting. Dryland areas of Colorado and Utah are looking for a return of their acreage after last year's drought. A heavy snow storm across Colorado's Rockies should help provide irrigation water but normal supplies are still short. Drought conditions also remain in Montana, Wyoming, and Oregon.

Sweet Potatoes: Growers intend to plant 93,500 acres of sweet potatoes in 2003, down 4 percent from last year and 5 percent below 2001 for comparable States. Six States expect lower acreage than last year, two are unchanged, but North Carolina growers expect a 5 percent increase.

Transplant preparations are active in North Carolina as most growers have planted their beds or have lined up sources for plants. Planted acreage in Virginia and Alabama is expected to be the same as last year. Alabama growers are preparing hotbeds for slip development and expect to start transplanting toward the end of April. Planting intentions in South Carolina are down 6 percent and New Jersey growers look for a 17 percent decline. Mississippi and Louisiana intentions for sweet potatoes are down 12 and 14 percent, respectively. Sweet potato acreage in Louisiana has continued a decline caused by two years of drought followed by two years of excessive rains and hurricane damage.

Planting intentions in California and Texas are both down 3 percent from last year. Texas growers face wet soils this year which is quite the opposite of the dryness a year ago. California farmers are busy preparing hotbeds for plant development as field transplanting time approaches. No major problems or unusual situations have been reported.

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 75,000 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 2003 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, 2003. 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, 2003, 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 2.1 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 2.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.6 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 1.19 million acres, ranging from 7,000 acres to 3.84 million acres. The prospective plantings estimates have been below the final estimate 7 times and above 13 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
			<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Corn	2.1	3.6	1,186	7	3,844	7	13
Sorghum	8.1	14.0	785	76	2,471	11	9
Oats	7.7	13.3	641	22	2,429	4	16
Barley	5.2	9.0	370	5	1,369	6	14
Winter Wheat	1.2	2.1	478	8	1,630	8	12
Durum Wheat	8.7	15.0	219	12	573	11	9
Other Spring Wheat	7.6	13.1	960	12	2,543	13	7
Soybeans	2.8	4.8	1,360	0	5,046	13	6
Upland Cotton	5.6	9.8	416	6	1,354	10	10

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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Roy Karkosh - Barley, Sorghum, Sugar Crops	(202) 690-8140
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The next "Prospective Plantings" report will be released in March 2004.

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