

Planting Intentions



National
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
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Board

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A special survey conducted during the last two weeks of January indicated that farmers intend to plant more corn, sorghum, soybeans, cotton, barley, oats, rice, and sunflower and less wheat in 1991 than in 1990. The National Agricultural Statistics Service telephoned a cross section sample of farmers and ranchers throughout the Nation asking their 1991 planting intentions for selected crops. Nearly 19,000 operators surveyed in the September and December 1990 Agriculture Surveys were recontacted for this earlier-than-normal planting intentions report.

The 1991 planting intentions, 1990 and 1989 acreages, with comparisons follow.

ACRES PLANTED AND INTENDED TO BE PLANTED UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1991

CROP	1989	1990	1991 1/	1991/1989	1991/1990
	1,000 ACRES			PERCENT	
CORN	72,221	74,171	77,500	107	104
SORGHUM	12,642	10,535	12,500	99	119
OATS 2/	6,882	5,940	6,800	99	114
BARLEY	9,125	8,201	9,100	100	111
ALL WHEAT	76,615	77,286	68,618	90	89
Winter	55,091	56,998	3/51,018	93	90
Durum	3,791	3,565	3,600	95	101
Other Spring	17,733	16,723	14,000	79	84
RICE	2,731	2,887	4/2,950	108	102
SOYBEANS	60,820	57,795	58,500	96	101
ALL COTTON	10,587	12,429	14,700	139	118
SUNFLOWER 5/	1,840	1,905	2,600	141	136

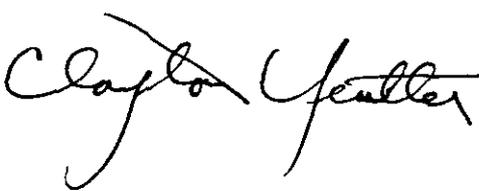
- 1/ ACRES PLANTED OR INTENDED TO BE PLANTED.
- 2/ 1989 AND 1990 ACRES HARVESTED FOR GRAIN, 1991 PLANTED FOR GRAIN HARVEST.
- 3/ CARRIED FORWARD FROM JAN WINTER WHEAT AND RYE SEEDINGS REPORT.
- 4/ THE 1991 RICE PROGRAM WAS ANNOUNCED JAN 30 AFTER THE SURVEY WAS COMPLETED.
- 5/ INCLUDES BOTH OIL AND NON-OIL VARIETIES IN KS, MN, ND, SD, AND TX.

Farm operators were also asked about their intentions to plant minor oilseed crops. The minor oilseed crops include sunflower in all States except Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Texas where published separately, plus rapeseed, canola, safflower, mustard seed, and flaxseed in all States. Only one percent of the survey respondents now intend to plant these minor oilseed crops, 98 percent indicated no current plans to plant any minor oilseed crops, and one percent was undecided. About 50 percent of those operators reporting intentions to plant minor oilseed crops in 1991 planted these crops in 1990. Individual intentions to plant minor oilseeds for 1991 ranged from a few acres to several hundred acres.

Less than a tenth of the survey respondents across the United States were still undecided about their intentions to plant. Survey respondents in the Eastern Corn Belt reported the greatest degree of uncertainty for planting intentions.

About one fourth of the survey respondents that participated in the farm program in 1990 are still undecided if they will participate in 1991. A large portion of all farmers surveyed indicated they did not understand major provisions of the 1991 farm program.

Only United States planting intentions are provided in this report. The January survey sample was not designed to obtain regional or State estimates. However, both State and National estimates will be available from the March Prospective Plantings to be published March 28, 1991. Actual 1991 plantings may vary from these reported intentions because of the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, changes in marketing conditions prior to planting, indications from this report, and farmers and ranchers finalizing their decisions about participating in the 1991 Farm Program.

 * The PLANTING INTENTIONS report contains National estimates with related *
 * information on selected agricultural commodities. These data were prepared*
 * and adopted by the Agricultural Statistics Board which consists of commod-*
 * ity statisticians from the field offices and Washington headquarters. *
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