Prospective Plantings

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Corn Planted Acreage Up 6 Percent from 2015
Soybean Acreage Down Less Than 1 Percent
All Wheat Acreage Down 9 Percent
All Cotton Acreage Up 11 Percent

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2016 is estimated at 93.6 million acres, up 6 percent from last year. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 2013, and will be the third highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944.

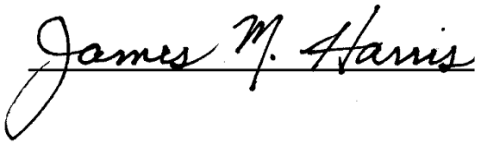
Soybean planted area for 2016 is estimated at 82.2 million acres, down less than 1 percent from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage intentions are down or unchanged in 23 of the 31 estimating States.

All wheat planted area for 2016 is estimated at 49.6 million acres, down 9 percent from 2015. The 2016 winter wheat planted area, at 36.2 million acres, is down 8 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 26.2 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.60 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.37 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2016 is estimated at 11.3 million acres, down 14 percent from 2015. Of this total, about 10.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2016 is estimated at 2.00 million acres, up 3 percent from the previous year.

All cotton planted area for 2016 is estimated at 9.56 million acres, 11 percent above last year. Upland area is estimated at 9.35 million acres, up 11 percent from 2015. American Pima area is estimated at 215,000 acres, up 36 percent from 2015.

This report was approved on March 31, 2016.

Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board
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James M. Harris

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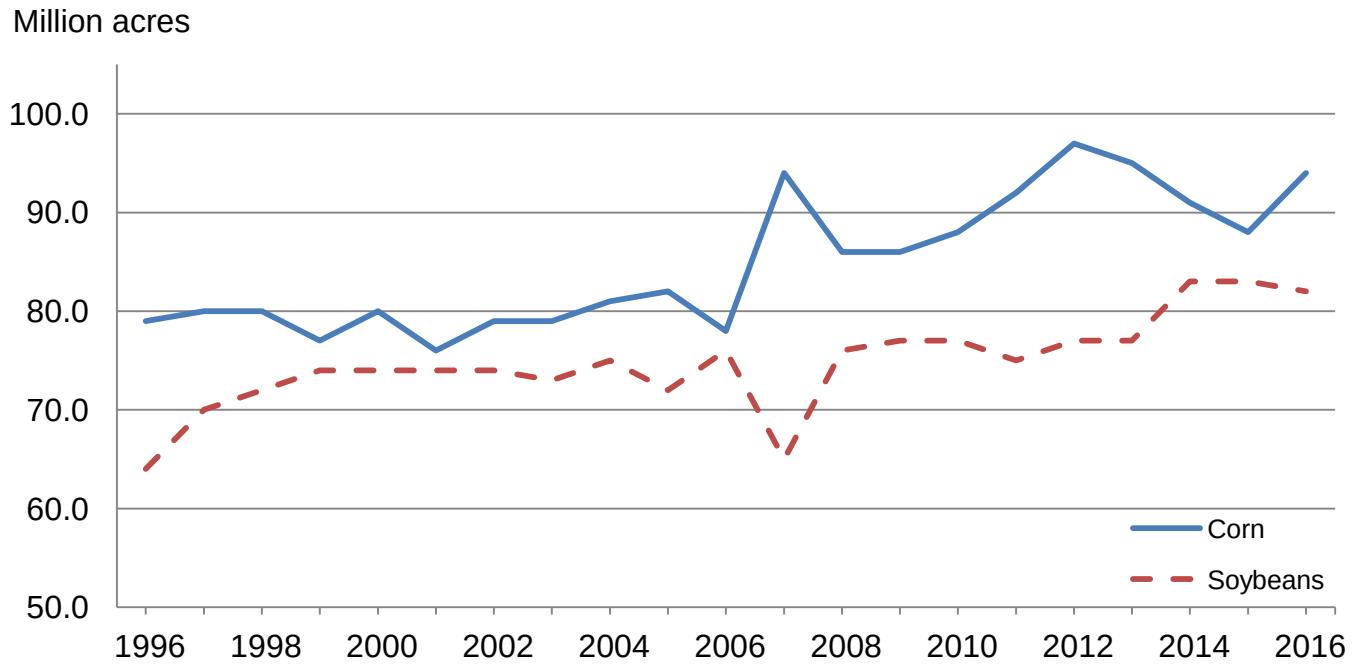
Corn Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama	300	260	340	131
Arizona	75	70	65	93
Arkansas	540	460	790	172
California	520	430	440	102
Colorado	1,150	1,100	1,250	114
Connecticut	26	26	25	96
Delaware	175	170	175	103
Florida	75	80	100	125
Georgia	350	330	390	118
Idaho	320	280	320	114
Illinois	11,900	11,700	12,100	103
Indiana	5,900	5,650	5,800	103
Iowa	13,700	13,500	13,900	103
Kansas	4,050	4,150	4,800	116
Kentucky	1,520	1,400	1,500	107
Louisiana	400	400	730	183
Maine	31	31	31	100
Maryland	500	440	490	111
Massachusetts	16	16	15	94
Michigan	2,550	2,350	2,450	104
Minnesota	8,200	8,100	8,200	101
Mississippi	510	510	800	157
Missouri	3,500	3,250	3,600	111
Montana	130	105	95	90
Nebraska	9,300	9,400	9,700	103
Nevada	4	2	4	200
New Hampshire	15	15	14	93
New Jersey	85	80	75	94
New Mexico	125	125	105	84
New York	1,140	1,080	1,100	102
North Carolina	840	790	930	118
North Dakota	2,800	2,750	3,400	124
Ohio	3,700	3,550	3,550	100
Oklahoma	320	310	360	116
Oregon	80	65	75	115
Pennsylvania	1,460	1,340	1,400	104
Rhode Island	2	2	2	100
South Carolina	295	295	320	108
South Dakota	5,800	5,400	5,700	106
Tennessee	920	780	840	108
Texas	2,250	2,300	2,600	113
Utah	75	60	75	125
Vermont	92	92	95	103
Virginia	500	450	490	109
Washington	215	170	210	124
West Virginia	51	50	50	100
Wisconsin	4,000	4,000	4,000	100
Wyoming	90	85	100	118
United States	90,597	87,999	93,601	106

[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Corn and Soybean Planted Acreage - United States



Sorghum Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Arizona [2]	25	24	(NA)	(X)
Arkansas	170	450	140	31
Colorado	345	440	360	82
Georgia	40	50	35	70
Illinois	23	38	25	66
Kansas	2,850	3,400	3,150	93
Louisiana	100	77	66	86
Mississippi	110	120	50	42
Missouri	85	155	75	48
Nebraska	210	270	270	100
New Mexico	110	125	125	100
North Carolina [3]	(NA)	(NA)	50	(X)
Oklahoma	370	440	420	95
South Dakota	200	270	250	93
Texas	2,500	2,600	2,200	85
United States	7,138	8,459	7,216	85

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.
[3] Estimates began in 2016.

Oat Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Includes area planted in preceding fall]

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama	50	55	60	109
Arkansas	12	11	10	91
California	120	120	85	71
Colorado	45	45	30	67
Georgia	60	65	55	85
Idaho	70	75	55	73
Illinois	35	40	30	75
Indiana [2]	20	15	(NA)	(X)
Iowa	145	125	90	72
Kansas	85	95	120	126
Maine	32	30	31	103
Michigan	55	75	50	67
Minnesota	230	280	200	71
Missouri	25	30	30	100
Montana	45	50	55	110
Nebraska	110	135	145	107
New York	55	70	75	107
North Carolina	33	35	40	114
North Dakota	235	275	320	116
Ohio	50	70	75	107
Oklahoma	60	40	40	100
Oregon	30	35	30	86
Pennsylvania	90	95	85	89
South Carolina	21	24	25	104
South Dakota	250	325	310	95
Texas	450	520	450	87
Utah [2]	20	20	(NA)	(X)
Virginia [2]	10	12	(NA)	(X)
Washington	25	18	15	83
Wisconsin	255	280	220	79
Wyoming	30	23	20	87
United States	2,753	3,088	2,751	89

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.

Barley Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Includes area planted in preceding fall]

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Arizona	36	17	15	88
California	80	70	80	114
Colorado	57	65	78	120
Delaware	41	32	28	88
Idaho	600	580	560	97
Kansas [2]	16	13	(NA)	(X)
Maine [2]	13	13	(NA)	(X)
Maryland	70	50	50	100
Michigan [2]	9	11	(NA)	(X)
Minnesota	75	135	100	74
Montana	920	970	1,010	104
New York [2]	12	11	(NA)	(X)
North Carolina [2]	20	19	(NA)	(X)
North Dakota	620	1,120	800	71
Oregon	50	49	60	122
Pennsylvania	70	55	55	100
South Dakota [2]	28	37	(NA)	(X)
Utah	32	27	30	111
Virginia	56	46	44	96
Washington	115	110	125	114
Wisconsin [2]	26	28	(NA)	(X)
Wyoming	85	100	105	105
United States	3,031	3,558	3,140	88

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.

All Wheat Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Includes area planted in preceding fall]

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama	255	260	195	75
Arizona	85	150	101	67
Arkansas	465	350	220	63
California	530	465	460	99
Colorado	2,759	2,408	2,206	92
Delaware	80	70	80	114
Florida	15	25	20	80
Georgia	300	215	200	93
Idaho	1,271	1,200	1,221	102
Illinois	740	540	560	104
Indiana	390	290	350	121
Iowa	26	20	25	125
Kansas	9,600	9,200	8,500	92
Kentucky	630	560	550	98
Louisiana	160	110	40	36
Maryland	340	355	360	101
Michigan	550	510	580	114
Minnesota	1,262	1,532	1,385	90
Mississippi	230	150	90	60
Missouri	880	760	690	91
Montana	5,985	5,520	4,930	89
Nebraska	1,550	1,490	1,350	91
Nevada	21	12	18	150
New Jersey	33	27	25	93
New Mexico	380	385	370	96
New York	120	120	130	108
North Carolina	830	650	490	75
North Dakota	7,960	7,990	7,040	88
Ohio	620	520	600	115
Oklahoma	5,300	5,300	5,000	94
Oregon	830	835	785	94
Pennsylvania	185	195	190	97
South Carolina	230	170	90	53
South Dakota	2,514	2,756	2,284	83
Tennessee	530	455	440	97
Texas	6,000	6,000	5,000	83
Utah	130	125	126	101
Virginia	290	260	240	92
Washington	2,320	2,280	2,180	96
West Virginia	10	9	8	89
Wisconsin	295	230	290	126
Wyoming	140	145	140	97
United States	56,841	54,644	49,559	91

[1] Intended plantings for 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Winter Wheat Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Includes area planted in preceding fall]

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama	255	260	195	75
Arizona	8	5	11	220
Arkansas	465	350	220	63
California	490	400	400	100
Colorado	2,750	2,400	2,200	92
Delaware	80	70	80	114
Florida	15	25	20	80
Georgia	300	215	200	93
Idaho	780	750	750	100
Illinois	740	540	560	104
Indiana	390	290	350	121
Iowa	26	20	25	125
Kansas	9,600	9,200	8,500	92
Kentucky	630	560	550	98
Louisiana	160	110	40	36
Maryland	340	355	360	101
Michigan	550	510	580	114
Minnesota	42	52	35	67
Mississippi	230	150	90	60
Missouri	880	760	690	91
Montana	2,500	2,350	2,200	94
Nebraska	1,550	1,490	1,350	91
Nevada	15	8	12	150
New Jersey	33	27	25	93
New Mexico	380	385	370	96
New York	120	120	130	108
North Carolina	830	650	490	75
North Dakota	870	200	140	70
Ohio	620	520	600	115
Oklahoma	5,300	5,300	5,000	94
Oregon	750	740	680	92
Pennsylvania	185	195	190	97
South Carolina	230	170	90	53
South Dakota	1,210	1,420	1,150	81
Tennessee	530	455	440	97
Texas	6,000	6,000	5,000	83
Utah	120	115	115	100
Virginia	290	260	240	92
Washington	1,700	1,650	1,700	103
West Virginia	10	9	8	89
Wisconsin	295	230	290	126
Wyoming	140	145	140	97
United States	42,409	39,461	36,216	92

Durum Wheat Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Includes area planted in preceding fall in Arizona and California]

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Arizona	77	145	90	62
California	40	65	60	92
Idaho	11	10	11	110
Montana	435	620	630	102
North Dakota	840	1,090	1,200	110
South Dakota	4	6	4	67
United States	1,407	1,936	1,995	103

[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Other Spring Wheat Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Colorado	9	8	6	75
Idaho	480	440	460	105
Minnesota	1,220	1,480	1,350	91
Montana	3,050	2,550	2,100	82
Nevada	6	4	6	150
North Dakota	6,250	6,700	5,700	85
Oregon	80	95	105	111
South Dakota	1,300	1,330	1,130	85
Utah	10	10	11	110
Washington	620	630	480	76
United States	13,025	13,247	11,348	86

[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

All Hay Area Harvested – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area harvested			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama	750	730	730	100
Arizona	300	335	330	99
Arkansas	1,225	1,125	1,120	100
California	1,345	1,180	1,160	98
Colorado	1,340	1,450	1,400	97
Connecticut	53	53	55	104
Delaware	13	14	14	100
Florida	320	290	300	103
Georgia	580	570	570	100
Idaho	1,390	1,330	1,330	100
Illinois	520	490	480	98
Indiana	600	560	550	98
Iowa	1,155	1,160	1,200	103
Kansas	2,300	2,450	2,400	98
Kentucky	2,265	2,370	2,400	101
Louisiana	470	430	400	93
Maine	150	135	135	100
Maryland	195	215	220	102
Massachusetts	75	92	99	108
Michigan	980	970	930	96
Minnesota	1,910	1,570	1,700	108
Mississippi	600	680	700	103
Missouri	3,480	2,960	3,200	108
Montana	2,730	2,500	2,500	100
Nebraska	2,580	2,700	2,700	100
Nevada	430	320	310	97
New Hampshire	54	48	48	100
New Jersey	106	102	102	100
New Mexico	305	280	260	93
New York	1,370	1,230	1,230	100
North Carolina	830	777	830	107
North Dakota	2,700	2,750	2,800	102
Ohio	960	1,080	1,000	93
Oklahoma	3,590	3,020	2,800	93
Oregon	1,030	1,060	1,100	104
Pennsylvania	1,400	1,290	1,210	94
Rhode Island	7	6	7	117
South Carolina	270	300	290	97
South Dakota	3,250	3,400	3,250	96
Tennessee	1,766	1,765	1,800	102
Texas	5,440	4,730	4,750	100
Utah	680	670	680	101
Vermont	185	145	145	100
Virginia	1,175	1,175	1,180	100
Washington	870	750	720	96
West Virginia	618	590	620	105
Wisconsin	1,640	1,510	1,500	99
Wyoming	1,060	1,080	1,050	97
United States	57,062	54,437	54,305	100

[1] Intended area harvested in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Rice Area Planted by Class – States and United States: 2014-2016

Class and State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Long grain				
Arkansas	1,270	1,060	1,430	135
California	4	7	7	100
Louisiana	396	355	410	115
Mississippi	190	150	220	147
Missouri	210	175	200	114
Texas	141	127	185	146
United States	2,211	1,874	2,452	131
Medium grain				
Arkansas	215	245	150	61
California	405	380	390	103
Louisiana	70	65	30	46
Mississippi	1	-	-	(X)
Missouri	6	7	7	100
Texas	9	6	4	67
United States	706	703	581	83
Short grain				
Arkansas	1	1	1	100
California [2]	36	36	30	83
United States	37	37	31	84
All				
Arkansas	1,486	1,306	1,581	121
California	445	423	427	101
Louisiana	466	420	440	105
Mississippi	191	150	220	147
Missouri	216	182	207	114
Texas	150	133	189	142
United States	2,954	2,614	3,064	117

- Represents zero.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Includes sweet rice.

Canola Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Idaho	35.0	28.0	25.0	89
Kansas [2]	(D)	(D)	40.0	(D)
Minnesota	15.0	23.0	24.0	104
Montana	63.0	82.0	75.0	91
North Dakota	1,200.0	1,410.0	1,450.0	103
Oklahoma	270.0	140.0	90.0	64
Oregon	11.0	4.3	6.5	151
Washington	51.0	37.0	37.0	100
Other States [3]	70.0	52.7	-	(X)
United States	1,715.0	1,777.0	1,747.5	98

- Represents zero.
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Beginning in 2016, Kansas is published individually.
[3] For 2014 and 2015, Other States include Colorado and Kansas. Beginning in 2016, Other States is discontinued.

Soybean Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama	480	500	470	94
Arkansas	3,230	3,200	3,050	95
Delaware	185	175	165	94
Florida	39	33	30	91
Georgia	300	325	320	98
Illinois	9,800	9,800	10,000	102
Indiana	5,450	5,550	5,550	100
Iowa	9,850	9,850	9,700	98
Kansas	4,000	3,900	3,850	99
Kentucky	1,760	1,840	1,650	90
Louisiana	1,410	1,430	1,150	80
Maryland	510	520	510	98
Michigan	2,050	2,030	2,100	103
Minnesota	7,350	7,600	7,400	97
Mississippi	2,210	2,300	2,000	87
Missouri	5,650	4,550	5,500	121
Nebraska	5,400	5,300	5,300	100
New Jersey	105	105	100	95
New York	330	305	315	103
North Carolina	1,750	1,820	1,700	93
North Dakota	5,900	5,750	5,900	103
Ohio	4,700	4,750	4,650	98
Oklahoma	375	395	350	89
Pennsylvania	570	580	590	102
South Carolina	450	475	440	93
South Dakota	5,150	5,150	5,000	97
Tennessee	1,640	1,750	1,650	94
Texas	155	130	190	146
Virginia	650	630	630	100
West Virginia	27	27	26	96
Wisconsin	1,800	1,880	1,950	104
United States	83,276	82,650	82,236	99

[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Peanut Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama	175.0	200.0	170.0	85
Arkansas [2]	(NA)	(NA)	18.0	(X)
Florida	175.0	190.0	150.0	79
Georgia	600.0	785.0	730.0	93
Mississippi	32.0	44.0	40.0	91
New Mexico	4.5	5.0	5.0	100
North Carolina	94.0	90.0	95.0	106
Oklahoma	12.0	10.0	9.0	90
South Carolina	112.0	112.0	110.0	98
Texas	130.0	170.0	130.0	76
Virginia	19.0	19.0	19.0	100
United States	1,353.5	1,625.0	1,476.0	91

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates began in 2016.

Sunflower Area Planted by Type – States and United States: 2014-2016

Varietal type and State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Oil				
California	44.0	33.0	42.0	127
Colorado	35.0	60.0	40.0	67
Kansas	45.0	57.0	45.0	79
Minnesota	47.0	77.0	75.0	97
Nebraska	27.0	29.0	27.0	93
North Dakota	520.0	620.0	630.0	102
Oklahoma [2]	3.0	3.5	(NA)	(X)
South Dakota	410.0	580.0	530.0	91
Texas	43.0	91.0	55.0	60
United States	1,174.0	1,550.5	1,444.0	93
Non-oil				
California	3.5	1.4	1.4	100
Colorado	11.5	13.0	9.0	69
Kansas	18.0	27.0	13.0	48
Minnesota	15.0	24.0	21.0	88
Nebraska	11.0	20.0	17.0	85
North Dakota	145.0	100.0	95.0	95
Oklahoma [2]	1.3	2.2	(NA)	(X)
South Dakota	125.0	99.0	75.0	76
Texas	61.0	22.0	18.0	82
United States	391.3	308.6	249.4	81
All				
California	47.5	34.4	43.4	126
Colorado	46.5	73.0	49.0	67
Kansas	63.0	84.0	58.0	69
Minnesota	62.0	101.0	96.0	95
Nebraska	38.0	49.0	44.0	90
North Dakota	665.0	720.0	725.0	101
Oklahoma [2]	4.3	5.7	(NA)	(X)
South Dakota	535.0	679.0	605.0	89
Texas	104.0	113.0	73.0	65
United States	1,565.3	1,859.1	1,693.4	91

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.

Flaxseed Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Minnesota [2]	2	3	(NA)	(X)
Montana	28	31	38	123
North Dakota	275	410	340	83
South Dakota	6	19	12	63
United States	311	463	390	84

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.

Cotton Area Planted by Type – States and United States: 2014-2016

Type and State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Upland				
Alabama	350.0	315.0	320.0	102
Arizona	150.0	89.0	115.0	129
Arkansas	335.0	210.0	330.0	157
California	57.0	47.0	45.0	96
Florida	107.0	85.0	90.0	106
Georgia	1,380.0	1,130.0	1,150.0	102
Kansas	31.0	16.0	22.0	138
Louisiana	170.0	115.0	150.0	130
Mississippi	425.0	320.0	450.0	141
Missouri	250.0	185.0	270.0	146
New Mexico	43.0	35.0	40.0	114
North Carolina	465.0	385.0	290.0	75
Oklahoma	240.0	215.0	270.0	126
South Carolina	280.0	235.0	190.0	81
Tennessee	275.0	155.0	235.0	152
Texas	6,200.0	4,800.0	5,300.0	110
Virginia	87.0	85.0	80.0	94
United States	10,845.0	8,422.0	9,347.0	111
American Pima				
Arizona	15.0	17.5	20.0	114
California	155.0	117.0	165.0	141
New Mexico	5.4	7.0	8.0	114
Texas	17.0	17.0	22.0	129
United States	192.4	158.5	215.0	136
All				
Alabama	350.0	315.0	320.0	102
Arizona	165.0	106.5	135.0	127
Arkansas	335.0	210.0	330.0	157
California	212.0	164.0	210.0	128
Florida	107.0	85.0	90.0	106
Georgia	1,380.0	1,130.0	1,150.0	102
Kansas	31.0	16.0	22.0	138
Louisiana	170.0	115.0	150.0	130
Mississippi	425.0	320.0	450.0	141
Missouri	250.0	185.0	270.0	146
New Mexico	48.4	42.0	48.0	114
North Carolina	465.0	385.0	290.0	75
Oklahoma	240.0	215.0	270.0	126
South Carolina	280.0	235.0	190.0	81
Tennessee	275.0	155.0	235.0	152
Texas	6,217.0	4,817.0	5,322.0	110
Virginia	87.0	85.0	80.0	94
United States	11,037.4	8,580.5	9,562.0	111

[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Sugarbeet Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Relates to year of intended harvest in all States except California]

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
California [2]	24.3	25.0	25.0	100
Colorado	29.6	27.5	32.8	119
Idaho	170.0	171.0	174.0	102
Michigan	151.0	152.0	151.0	99
Minnesota	440.0	443.0	444.0	100
Montana	45.1	44.1	42.0	95
Nebraska	49.1	47.5	40.8	86
North Dakota	215.0	208.0	210.0	101
Oregon	7.5	9.2	7.0	76
Washington [3]	(NA)	(NA)	2.0	(X)
Wyoming	30.9	31.5	30.0	95
United States	1,162.5	1,158.8	1,158.6	100

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from processors.
[2] Relates to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central California and to year of planting for overwintered beets in central and southern California.
[3] Estimates began in 2016.

Tobacco Area Harvested – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area harvested			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
Connecticut [2]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
Georgia	15,000	13,500	13,500	100
Kentucky	91,700	72,900	75,700	104
Massachusetts [2]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
North Carolina	193,400	171,000	160,950	94
Ohio [2]	2,000	1,900	(NA)	(X)
Pennsylvania	9,100	7,900	7,000	89
South Carolina	15,800	13,000	14,500	112
Tennessee	24,250	20,800	20,350	98
Virginia	24,330	23,050	22,450	97
Other States [3]	2,780	2,500	-	(X)
United States	378,360	326,550	314,450	96

- Represents zero.
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended area harvested in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.
[3] Includes data withheld above.

Tobacco Area Harvested by Class and Type – States and United States: 2014-2016

Class, type, and State	Area harvested			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
Class 1, Flue-cured (11-14)				
Georgia	15,000	13,500	13,500	100
North Carolina	192,000	170,000	160,000	94
South Carolina	15,800	13,000	14,500	112
Virginia	22,500	21,500	21,000	98
United States	245,300	218,000	209,000	96
Class 2, Fire-cured (21-23)				
Kentucky	10,700	9,900	10,000	101
Tennessee	7,600	7,600	7,100	93
Virginia	330	250	250	100
United States	18,630	17,750	17,350	98
Class 3A, Light air-cured				
Type 31, Burley				
Kentucky	76,000	58,000	61,000	105
North Carolina	1,400	1,000	950	95
Ohio [2]	2,000	1,900	(NA)	(X)
Pennsylvania	5,100	4,700	4,000	85
Tennessee	15,500	12,000	12,000	100
Virginia	1,500	1,300	1,200	92
United States	101,500	78,900	79,150	100
Type 32, Southern Maryland				
Pennsylvania	2,000	1,600	1,600	100
Total light air-cured (31-32)	103,500	80,500	80,750	100
Class 3B, Dark air-cured (35-37)				
Kentucky	5,000	5,000	4,700	94
Tennessee	1,150	1,200	1,250	104
United States	6,150	6,200	5,950	96
Class 4, Cigar filler				
Pennsylvania	2,000	1,600	1,400	88
Class 5, Cigar binder				
Type 51, Connecticut Valley Broadleaf				
Connecticut [2]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
Massachusetts [2]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
United States [2]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
Class 6, Cigar wrapper				
Type 61, Connecticut Valley Shade-grown				
Connecticut [2]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
Massachusetts [2]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
United States [2]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
Other cigar types (51-61)	2,780	2,500	(NA)	(X)
Total cigar types (41-61) [3]	4,780	4,100	1,400	34
All tobacco				
United States	378,360	326,550	314,450	96

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended area harvested in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.
[3] Beginning in 2016, estimates only include Class 4 Cigar filler.

Dry Edible Bean Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Excludes beans grown for garden seed]

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Arizona [2]	11.0	9.1	(NA)	(X)
California	48.0	45.0	39.0	87
Colorado	46.0	50.0	55.0	110
Idaho	125.0	120.0	120.0	100
Kansas [2]	7.5	8.0	(NA)	(X)
Michigan	230.0	275.0	215.0	78
Minnesota	155.0	190.0	155.0	82
Montana	37.5	49.0	80.0	163
Nebraska	170.0	140.0	115.0	82
New Mexico [2]	10.5	12.9	(NA)	(X)
New York [2]	8.0	8.0	(NA)	(X)
North Dakota	630.0	655.0	590.0	90
Oregon [2]	8.5	9.0	(NA)	(X)
South Dakota [2]	14.0	12.5	(NA)	(X)
Texas	23.0	31.0	30.0	97
Washington	127.7	110.0	120.0	109
Wisconsin [2]	7.9	7.9	(NA)	(X)
Wyoming	42.0	32.0	40.0	125
United States	1,701.6	1,764.4	1,559.0	88

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.

Chickpea (Garbanzo Bean) Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Chickpea acres included with dry bean acres]

Size and State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Small chickpeas [2]				
Idaho	29.0	32.0	30.0	94
Montana	(D)	(D)	18.0	(D)
North Dakota	2.0	5.0	5.0	100
Oregon [3]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
South Dakota [3]	(D)	-	(NA)	(X)
Washington	22.0	20.0	30.0	150
Other States [4]	13.8	15.2	-	(X)
United States	66.8	72.2	83.0	115
Large chickpeas [5]				
California	9.3	7.7	7.0	91
Idaho	45.0	38.0	40.0	105
Montana	(D)	(D)	50.0	(D)
Nebraska [3]	-	0.2	(NA)	(X)
North Dakota	4.4	2.4	6.0	250
Oregon [3]	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(X)
South Dakota [3]	(D)	3.2	(NA)	(X)
Washington	68.0	55.0	60.0	109
Other States [4]	21.6	28.8	-	(X)
United States	148.3	135.3	163.0	120
All chickpeas (Garbanzo)				
California	9.3	7.7	7.0	91
Idaho	74.0	70.0	70.0	100
Montana	31.5	43.0	68.0	158
Nebraska [3]	-	0.2	(NA)	(X)
North Dakota	6.4	7.4	11.0	149
Oregon [3]	1.1	1.0	(NA)	(X)
South Dakota [3]	2.8	3.2	(NA)	(X)
Washington	90.0	75.0	90.0	120
United States	215.1	207.5	246.0	119

- Represents zero.
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Chickpeas (or Garbanzo beans) smaller than 20/64 inches.
[3] Estimates discontinued in 2016.
[4] Includes data withheld above.
[5] Chickpeas (or Garbanzo beans) larger than 20/64 inches.

Lentil Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Idaho	25.0	33.0	40.0	121
Montana	130.0	235.0	500.0	213
North Dakota	75.0	165.0	240.0	145
Washington	51.0	60.0	70.0	117
United States	281.0	493.0	850.0	172

[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Dry Edible Pea Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Idaho	46.0	51.0	40.0	78
Montana	525.0	595.0	580.0	97
Nebraska [2]	(NA)	(NA)	50.0	(X)
North Dakota	265.0	385.0	640.0	166
Oregon	9.0	7.0	8.0	114
South Dakota [2]	(NA)	(NA)	25.0	(X)
Washington	90.0	105.0	80.0	76
United States	935.0	1,143.0	1,423.0	124

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates began in 2016.

Austrian Winter Pea Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Idaho	9.0	13.0	14.0	108
Montana	12.0	15.0	11.0	73
Oregon	3.0	6.0	6.0	100
United States	24.0	34.0	31.0	91

[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Spring Potato Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Arizona [2]	3.8	3.6	(NA)	(X)
California	25.0	23.0	26.0	113
Florida	30.5	30.0	29.0	97
North Carolina [3]	14.5	13.5	(NA)	(X)
United States	73.8	70.1	55.0	78

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.
[3] Beginning in 2016, North Carolina estimates included with summer states.

Sweet Potato Area Planted – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Area planted			
	2014	2015	2016 [1]	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama [2]	2.1	2.6	(NA)	(X)
Arkansas	4.0	4.0	(D)	(D)
California	19.0	18.5	20.0	108
Florida	6.0	5.6	(D)	(D)
Louisiana	9.0	10.0	10.0	100
Mississippi	22.0	27.0	25.0	93
New Jersey [2]	1.2	1.2	(NA)	(X)
North Carolina	73.0	87.0	105.0	121
Texas [2]	1.0	1.0	(NA)	(X)
Other States [3]	-	-	9.4	(X)
United States	137.3	156.9	169.4	108

- Represents zero.
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Intended plantings in 2016 as indicated by reports from farmers.
[2] Estimates discontinued in 2016.
[3] Includes data withheld above.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3,558	3,140	3,109	
Corn for grain [1]	87,999	93,601	80,749	
Corn for silage	(NA)		6,221	
Hay, all	(NA)	(NA)	54,437	54,305
Alfalfa	(NA)		17,778	
All other	(NA)		36,659	
Oats	3,088	2,751	1,276	
Proso millet	445		418	
Rice	2,614	3,064	2,575	
Rye	1,569		360	
Sorghum for grain [1]	8,459	7,216	7,851	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		306	
Wheat, all	54,644	49,559	47,094	
Winter	39,461	36,216	32,257	
Durum	1,936	1,995	1,896	
Other spring	13,247	11,348	12,941	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,777.0	1,747.5	1,714.5	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	463	390	456	
Mustard seed	44.0		40.1	
Peanuts	1,625.0	1,476.0	1,567.0	
Rapeseed	1.2		1.1	
Safflower	168.2		159.1	
Soybeans for beans	82,650	82,236	81,814	
Sunflower	1,859.1	1,693.4	1,799.4	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	8,580.5	9,562.0	8,057.9	
Upland	8,422.0	9,347.0	7,903.0	
American Pima	158.5	215.0	154.9	
Sugarbeets	1,158.8	1,158.6	1,144.3	
Sugarcane	(NA)		891.7	
Tobacco	(NA)	(NA)	326.6	314.5
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	34.0	31.0	21.0	
Dry edible beans	1,764.4	1,559.0	1,711.4	
Chickpeas, all [3]	207.5	246.0	203.1	
Large	135.3	163.0	131.2	
Small	72.2	83.0	71.9	
Dry edible peas	1,143.0	1,423.0	1,083.5	
Lentils	493.0	850.0	476.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	(NA)		43.6	
Maple syrup	(NA)		(NA)	
Mushrooms	(NA)		(NA)	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		65.2	
Potatoes, all	1,065.2		1,053.3	
Spring	70.1	55.0	68.5	
Summer	50.5		47.1	
Fall	944.6		937.7	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		27.2	
Sweet potatoes	156.9	169.4	153.1	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		0.3	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2015 and 2016 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop		Yield per acre		Production	
		2015	2016	2015	2016
				(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay					
Barley	bushels	68.9		214,297	
Corn for grain	bushels	168.4		13,601,198	
Corn for silage	tons	20.4		126,894	
Hay, all	tons	2.47		134,388	
Alfalfa	tons	3.32		58,974	
All other	tons	2.06		75,414	
Oats	bushels	70.2		89,535	
Proso millet	bushels	33.9		14,159	
Rice [2]	cwt	7,470		192,343	
Rye	bushels	31.9		11,496	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	76.0		596,751	
Sorghum for silage	tons	14.6		4,475	
Wheat, all	bushels	43.6		2,051,752	
Winter	bushels	42.5		1,370,188	
Durum	bushels	43.5		82,484	
Other spring	bushels	46.3		599,080	
Oilseeds					
Canola	pounds	1,677		2,875,010	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)		4,153.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	22.1		10,095	
Mustard seed	pounds	671		26,927	
Peanuts	pounds	3,963		6,210,590	
Rapeseed	pounds	1,382		1,520	
Safflower	pounds	1,347		214,251	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	48.0		3,929,160	
Sunflower	pounds	1,625		2,923,730	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops					
Cotton, all [2]	bales	771		12,943.0	
Upland [2]	bales	760		12,508.0	
American Pima [2]	bales	1,348		435.0	
Sugarbeets	tons	30.8		35,278	
Sugarcane	tons	37.3		33,244	
Tobacco	pounds	2,178		711,236	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils					
Austrian winter peas [2]	cwt	1,238		260	
Dry edible beans [2]	cwt	1,760		30,121	
Chickpeas, all [2 3]	cwt	1,242		2,523	
Large [2]	cwt	1,231		1,615	
Small [2]	cwt	1,263		908	
Dry edible peas [2]	cwt	1,687		18,283	
Lentils [2]	cwt	1,108		5,276	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)		384	
Potatoes and miscellaneous					
Hops	pounds	1,807		78,846.0	
Maple syrup	gallons	(NA)		3,414	
Mushrooms	pounds	(NA)		952,619	
Peppermint oil	pounds	90		5,882	
Potatoes, all	cwt	418		440,498	
Spring	cwt	296		20,251	
Summer	cwt	334		15,734	
Fall	cwt	431		404,513	
Spearmint oil	pounds	113		3,070	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	203		31,016	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	10,300		3,502	

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Area planted for all purposes.
[2] Yield in pounds.
[3] Chickpeas included with dry edible beans.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,439,890	1,270,730	1,258,180	
Corn for grain [1]	35,612,320	37,879,390	32,678,310	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,517,580	
Hay, all [2]	(NA)	(NA)	22,030,110	21,976,690
Alfalfa	(NA)		7,194,580	
All other	(NA)		14,835,530	
Oats	1,249,680	1,113,300	516,380	
Proso millet	180,090		169,160	
Rice	1,057,860	1,239,970	1,042,080	
Rye	634,960		145,690	
Sorghum for grain [1]	3,423,270	2,920,240	3,177,220	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		123,840	
Wheat, all [2]	22,113,880	20,056,030	19,058,470	
Winter	15,969,470	14,656,250	13,054,090	
Durum	783,480	807,360	767,290	
Other spring	5,360,930	4,592,420	5,237,090	
Oilseeds				
Canola	719,130	707,200	693,840	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	187,370	157,830	184,540	
Mustard seed	17,810		16,230	
Peanuts	657,620	597,320	634,150	
Rapeseed	490		450	
Safflower	68,070		64,390	
Soybeans for beans	33,447,630	33,280,090	33,109,310	
Sunflower	752,360	685,300	728,200	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all [2]	3,472,440	3,869,650	3,260,950	
Upland	3,408,300	3,782,640	3,198,270	
American Pima	64,140	87,010	62,690	
Sugarbeets	468,950	468,870	463,090	
Sugarcane	(NA)		360,860	
Tobacco	(NA)	(NA)	132,150	127,250
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	13,760	12,550	8,500	
Dry edible beans	714,040	630,910	692,590	
Chickpeas [3]	83,970	99,550	82,190	
Large	54,750	65,960	53,100	
Small	29,220	33,590	29,100	
Dry edible peas	462,560	575,870	438,480	
Lentils	199,510	343,990	192,630	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	(NA)		17,660	
Maple syrup	(NA)		(NA)	
Mushrooms	(NA)		(NA)	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		26,390	
Potatoes, all [2]	431,080		426,260	
Spring	28,370	22,260	27,720	
Summer	20,440		19,060	
Fall	382,270		379,480	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		11,010	
Sweet potatoes	63,500	68,550	61,960	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		140	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

--continued

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2015 and 2016 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.71		4,665,770	
Corn for grain	10.57		345,486,340	
Corn for silage	45.73		115,116,300	
Hay, all [2]	5.53		121,914,740	
Alfalfa	7.44		53,500,310	
All other	4.61		68,414,430	
Oats	2.52		1,299,600	
Proso millet	1.90		321,120	
Rice	8.37		8,724,530	
Rye	2.00		292,010	
Sorghum for grain	4.77		15,158,170	
Sorghum for silage	32.78		4,059,650	
Wheat, all [2]	2.93		55,839,540	
Winter	2.86		37,290,410	
Durum	2.93		2,244,850	
Other spring	3.11		16,304,290	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.88		1,304,080	
Cottonseed	(X)		3,767,540	
Flaxseed	1.39		256,420	
Mustard seed	0.75		12,210	
Peanuts	4.44		2,817,080	
Rapeseed	1.55		690	
Safflower	1.51		97,180	
Soybeans for beans	3.23		106,934,210	
Sunflower	1.82		1,326,180	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all [2]	0.86		2,818,010	
Upland	0.85		2,723,300	
American Pima	1.51		94,710	
Sugarbeets	69.11		32,003,660	
Sugarcane	83.57		30,158,450	
Tobacco	2.44		322,610	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.39		11,790	
Dry edible beans	1.97		1,366,270	
Chickpeas, all [3]	1.39		114,440	
Large	1.38		73,260	
Small	1.42		41,190	
Dry edible peas	1.89		829,300	
Lentils	1.24		239,320	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		17,420	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	2.03		35,760	
Maple syrup	(NA)		17,070	
Mushrooms	(NA)		432,100	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,670	
Potatoes, all [2]	46.87		19,980,650	
Spring	33.14		918,570	
Summer	37.44		713,680	
Fall	48.35		18,348,400	
Spearmint oil	0.13		1,390	
Sweet potatoes	22.71		1,406,860	
Taro (Hawaii)	11.55		1,590	

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
[1] Area planted for all purposes.
[2] Total may not add due to rounding.
[3] Chickpeas included with dry edible beans.

Winter Weather Summary

Highlights: A strong El Niño brought some widely expected winter weather impacts to the United States, but also provided some surprises. For example, atmospheric warmth in part supplied by the balmy central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean contributed to the Nation's warmest December-February period on record. Similarly, the contiguous United States experienced its wettest winter since the record-setting El Niño of 1997-98. However, El Niño's impacts on the Western winter wet season were somewhat reversed, with wetter conditions in the Pacific Northwest and drier weather in the Southwest. In addition, uncharacteristically wet conditions affected much of the Midwest, especially in December. The cool conditions that often cover the South during El Niño were present only periodically, mainly in January and February.

In fact, December seemed like anything but a winter month, ranking first all-time for both United States warmth and wetness. The wet conditions peaked in late December, culminating in record flooding in parts of the middle Mississippi Valley. Despite the overall December warmth, a late-month blizzard on the southern High Plains proved devastating for livestock. Elsewhere, storms during December and January provided Western drought relief. Although many of January's storms were focused across the West, several had impacts farther east. For example, a blizzard struck the Mid-Atlantic States on January 22-23, with significant snow extending as far west as the interior Southeast. Warmth returned to nearly all of the United States during February, while storminess largely vacated the West. Despite the lack of late-winter storms in the West, overall United States drought coverage plunged from more than one-third (34.8 percent) of the Lower 48 States on October 20, 2015, to approximately one-seventh (14.3 percent) of the Country on March 1, 2016.

Historical Perspective: Given the warming influence of El Niño and the lack of sustained cold waves, it was not surprisingly the warmest United States winter during the period of record that began in 1895-96. According to preliminary information provided by the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), the Nation's winter average temperature of 36.8°F was 4.6°F above the 1901-2000 mean, edging the 1999-2000 standard of 36.5°F. It was the warmest winter on record in all six New England States, and among the ten warmest in 28 other States. All 48 States were in the "warm" half of the historical distribution; Nevada and Utah were the "coolest" States, each reporting its 41st warmest winter.

Meanwhile, the Nation experienced its 12th-wettest winter—and wettest December-February period since the record-wet El Niño winter of 1997-98. December-February precipitation averaged 8.05 inches across the Lower 48 States, 119 percent of normal. It was the 39th-driest winter in Louisiana and Wyoming, but among the ten wettest winters in Washington, Nebraska, three Midwestern States, and four Southeastern States.

December: Record-setting December warmth covered much of the Midwest and East, while heavy to record-setting precipitation fell across the Northwest, mid-South, and upper Midwest. Relentless precipitation further eased or eradicated Northwestern drought, but southern California and the Desert Southwest received little December moisture. Farther east, an already wet pattern in the Nation's mid-section culminated in a late-month deluge that drove the Mississippi River to record-high levels from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to Thebes, Illinois. Record-breaking crests were also noted along several Mississippi River tributaries, especially in Missouri.

The wetness across the mid-South and lower Midwest increased concerns about soft red winter wheat due to standing water and lowland flooding. During December, the portion of Illinois' winter wheat rated in good to excellent condition fell from 67 to 58 percent. Excessively wet conditions also plagued parts of the Southeast, hampering final harvest and winter wheat planting efforts. In North Carolina, only 42 percent of the winter wheat was rated in good to excellent condition at the end of December, down from 69 percent on November 29.

Unusual warmth accompanied the general wetness across the eastern half of the Country. In the Southeast, warm conditions allowed winter grains and cool-season pastures to continue to develop. Farther north, periods of snow blanketed the upper Midwest, despite above-normal temperatures. Occasional snow also fell across the Plains, providing winter wheat with some moisture and insulation. On the southern High Plains, however, a late-month blizzard caused significant livestock losses due to bitter cold and wind-driven snow.

According to NCEI, the contiguous United States experienced unprecedented December warmth and wetness. The

Nation's monthly average temperature of 38.6°F was 6.0°F above the 1901-2000 mean and easily topped the December 1939 standard of 37.7°F. It was the warmest December on record in Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri, along with every State east of the Mississippi River. Meanwhile, December precipitation averaged 3.93 inches, 167 percent of normal. Another El Niño-influenced December, 1982, slipped to second place on the all-time list with 3.76 inches. Two States, Iowa and Wisconsin, weathered their wettest December, and it was among the ten wettest in eighteen other States stretching from Washington and Oregon to the Carolinas and Georgia.

January: Frequent storms, in part fueled by a strong El Niño, further dented Western drought and maintained generally adequate to locally excessive soil moisture across the central and eastern United States.

In early January and again at month's end, a southward shift in the storm track brought significant precipitation to southern California and the Southwest. For the remainder of January, storms primarily crossed the Northwest, with meaningful precipitation often falling as far south as northern and central California. By the end of January, the average water content of the high-elevation Sierra Nevada snowpack stood at 20 inches, about 115 percent of average for the date.

Meanwhile, wet weather in southern Florida resulted in numerous January rainfall records and adversely affected winter vegetables and other crops. At times, high winds accompanied southern Florida's heavy rain. Farther north, a major winter storm on January 22-23 produced freezing rain in parts of the Carolinas and heavy snow from the interior Southeast to the northern Mid-Atlantic States.

Some of the coldest air of the season trailed the storm into the Southeast from January 23-25, although Florida's citrus belt escaped without a significant freeze. Elsewhere, near- to above-normal temperatures dominated the Country during January, with colder-than-normal conditions mostly limited to the Southeast and areas blanketed by the January 22-23 snowfall.

Amid the overall stormy January pattern, a few areas began to turn dry. However, drier-than-normal January conditions across the southern Plains, mid-south, and parts of the Southeast were mostly favorable, following the excessive rainfall and flooding of October-December 2015. At the end of January, USDA categorized more than two-thirds of the winter wheat in good to excellent condition in several major production States, including Oklahoma (74 percent good to excellent); Ohio (74 percent); Michigan (73 percent); Montana (72 percent); Indiana (71 percent); and South Dakota (67 percent). In contrast, North Carolina's wheat continued to struggle from the effects of autumn wetness and delayed planting; only 36 percent of the State's crop was rated good to excellent on January 31.

By February 2, the United States drought coverage of 15.5 percent represented the smallest area drought extent since October 26, 2010. As recently as October 20, 2015, contiguous United States drought coverage stood at 34.8 percent. In January, most of the remaining Western drought was only apparent when looking at long-term indicators such as below-average reservoir storage, groundwater shortages, and tree mortality.

According to NCEI, the contiguous United States experienced its 34th-warmest, and 36th-driest January during the 122-year period of record. The Nation's monthly average temperature of 32.2°F was 2.1°F above the 1901-2000 mean. State temperature rankings ranged from the 33rd-coolest January in West Virginia to the 11th-warmest January in Maine. Meanwhile, January precipitation averaged 2.03 inches, 88 percent of normal. However, Florida's precipitation averaged 5.96 inches, 201 percent of normal, marking its fourth-wettest January. California (6.16 inches, 145 percent of normal) experienced its wettest January since 2010. It was also California's wettest October-January period (13.62 inches; 117 percent of normal) since 2009-10. In contrast, Ohio noted its ninth-driest January.

February: For the second time in 3 months, warmth stretched nearly coast to coast, with only small sections of the southern Atlantic States experiencing cooler-than-normal weather. Unlike December, when unprecedented warmth covered areas from the Mississippi Valley to the East Coast, February's record-setting high temperatures were focused across the Plains.

As a result, winter wheat prematurely broke dormancy across the central and southern Plains, leaving the crop vulnerable to potential spring freezes. On the northern Plains, where February temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal in some locations, wheat lost some winter hardiness and was often buffeted by breezy conditions. The Plains' most

impressive warm spells peaked on February 18 and 27, with numerous monthly record highs established on both dates. During February, the portion of the winter wheat crop rated in good to excellent condition declined in Texas, from 49 to 40 percent, in part due to short-term dryness. Pockets of dryness also developed elsewhere across the southern half of the Plains. In contrast, early-month snowfall provided wheat with beneficial moisture across much of Nebraska, eastern Colorado, and northwestern Kansas.

Uncharacteristic of a strong, mature El Niño, February was unusually dry across much of the West. During February, the average water content of the high-elevation Sierra Nevada snowpack was nearly steady at 20 to 22 inches, with only minor storms affecting key watersheds. Since February is typically an important month for Sierra Nevada snowpack accumulation, the percent of historic average dropped from about 115 percent of average on February 1 to just 85 percent by month's end. Farther north, occasional precipitation benefited Northwestern winter grains.

Meanwhile, mild, occasionally stormy conditions prevailed across the Midwest, although a mid-month cold snap briefly resulted in some of the coldest weather of the season. Overwintering conditions remained mostly favorable for Midwestern wheat, with more than two-thirds of the crop rated in good to excellent condition at the end of February in Ohio (72 percent) and Indiana (67 percent).

Similarly, the mid-month cold spell interrupted an otherwise mild regime in the Northeast, while cool conditions were a little more persistent in the Southeast. An abundance of precipitation fell during February across most of the eastern one-third of the Country, with some of the heaviest rain occurring in the coastal Carolinas. Severe weather outbreaks were noted across portions of the South and East on February 2-3, 15-16, and 23-24. From the Ohio Valley into the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States, some of the precipitation—especially around mid-month—fell as snow, sleet, or freezing rain.

By February 29, only one-eighth (12.5 percent) of the Country was covered by snow, compared to 60.2 percent at the end of February 2015. At the same time, just 14.3 percent of the Nation was experiencing drought on March 1, according to the United States Drought Monitor. Drought coverage across the contiguous United States had not been lower in more than 5 years, since October 2010.

According to NCEI, the contiguous United States experienced its seventh-warmest, 46th-driest February during the 122-year period of record. The Nation's monthly average temperature of 39.5°F was 5.7°F above the 1901-2000 mean, while the average precipitation of 1.93 inches was 91 percent of normal. Overall, it was the Nation's warmest February since 2000. All States reported a February average temperature in the upper (warm) half of the historical distribution. For a dozen States across the western and central United States, as well as three States in New England, temperatures were among the ten highest respective February values on record. In Montana, where the monthly average temperature of 33.6°F was 12.3°F above the 20th century mean, it was the second-warmest February behind 1991. Meanwhile, State precipitation rankings ranged from the 14th-driest February in California to top-ten values for February wetness in New Hampshire, New York, Maine, and Vermont. California's monthly precipitation averaged 1.14 inches, just 30 percent of normal.

Crop Comments

Corn: Growers intend to plant 93.6 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2016, up 6 percent from last year and up 3 percent from 2014. If realized, this will be the third highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be up or unchanged in 41 of the 48 estimating States. The increase in planted acres is mainly due to the expectation of higher returns in 2016 compared with other crops. Acreage increases of 400,000 or more compared with last year are expected in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and North Dakota.

Sorghum: Growers intend to plant 7.22 million acres of sorghum for all purposes in 2016, down 15 percent from last year. Kansas and Texas, the leading sorghum producing States, account for 74 percent of the expected United States acreage. As of March 20, Texas growers had planted 22 percent of their expected acreage, 16 percentage points ahead of last year but identical to the five-year average.

Oats: Area seeded to oats for the 2016 crop year is estimated at 2.75 million acres, down 11 percent from 2015. If realized, United States planted acres will be the third lowest on record. Record low planted acreage is estimated in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wyoming.

Barley: Producers intend to seed 3.14 million acres of barley for the 2016 crop year, down 12 percent from the previous year. If realized, this will be the fourth smallest seeded area on record. In Montana, the planted area is expected to be up 4 percent from 2015. In North Dakota, planted acreage is expected to decrease by 29 percent from last year.

Winter wheat: The 2016 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 36.2 million acres, down 8 percent from 2015 and down 1 percent from the previous estimate. States with notable acreage decreases from the previous year are Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas, while notable increases occurred in the Great Lakes region. Record low acreage is estimated for Nebraska, New Jersey, and Utah. Of the total acreage, about 26.2 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.60 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.37 million acres are White Winter.

Durum wheat: Area seeded to Durum wheat for 2016 is estimated at 2.00 million acres, up 3 percent from 2015. Planted acreage is expected to increase in Montana and North Dakota, the two largest Durum-producing States. If realized, planted acres will tie a record low in South Dakota.

Other spring wheat: Growers intend to plant 11.3 million acres, down 14 percent from 2015. If realized, this will represent the lowest United States acreage since 1972. Of the total, about 10.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Compared with last year, acreage increases are expected in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. Acreage decreases are expected in Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington. If realized, planted acres will be a record low in Colorado.

Rice: Area planted to rice in 2016 is expected to total 3.06 million acres, up 17 percent from 2015. Lower prices for competing commodities is contributing to the expected increase in rice acres compared with last year. The expected acres planted to long grain rice in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas account for the increase in both long grain and all rice planted acres. Arkansas, the largest long grain producing State, is expected to increase long grain acres by 35 percent. Medium and short grain acres are expected to decline by 17 and 16 percent, respectively from 2015. California, the largest medium and short grain producing State, is expected to increase medium grain acres by 3 percent in 2016.

Hay: Producers intend to harvest 54.3 million acres of all hay in 2016, down slightly from 2015. Harvested area of all hay is expected to hold steady or decline in all Western States, except Oregon and Utah. Increases in harvested acreage are expected in many Upper and Middle Mississippi Valley, Tennessee Valley, and Mid-Atlantic States. In the Northeast, several States expect harvested acreage to remain unchanged from last year.

A record low for all hay harvested area is expected in California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin in 2016.

Soybeans: Growers intend to plant 82.2 million acres in 2016, down less than 1 percent from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage intentions are down or unchanged in 23 of the 31 estimating States. Decreases of 200,000 acres or more are anticipated in Louisiana, Minnesota, and Mississippi. Compared with last year, the largest increase in acreage is expected in Missouri. If realized, the planted area in North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin will be the largest on record.

Peanuts: Growers intend to plant 1.48 million acres in 2016, down 9 percent from the previous year. The expected decrease in planted area is largely driven by price concerns due to the large supply of peanuts. Over the last two years, growers increased peanut acres in many States due to relatively low prices of other crops creating a large supply going into the 2016 crop year. In Georgia, the largest peanut-producing State, expected planted area is down 7 percent from 2015.

Sunflower: Growers intend to plant a total of 1.69 million acres in 2016, down 9 percent from last year. If realized, planted area for the Nation will be the fourth lowest since 1977. Area intended for oil type varieties, at 1.44 million acres,

is down 7 percent from 2015. The area intended for non-oil varieties, estimated at 249,400 acres, is down 19 percent from last year and will be the lowest since 1987, if realized.

Compared with last year, growers in six of the eight major sunflower-producing States expect a decline in sunflower acreage this year. Producers in South Dakota, the leading sunflower-producing State, intend to plant 605,000 acres, down more than 70,000 acres from last year.

Canola: Producers intend to plant 1.75 million acres in 2016, down 2 percent from 2015. Despite the decline, planted area in the United States will be the third largest on record, if realized. Compared with last year, planted area is expected to decrease in three of the major canola-producing States, with acreage in Oklahoma expected to decrease 50,000 acres from the previous year. Producers in North Dakota, the leading canola-producing State, intend to plant 1.45 million acres this year, an increase of 40,000 acres from 2015.

Flaxseed: Producers intend to plant 390,000 acres of flaxseed in 2016, down 73,000 acres, or 16 percent less than was planted in 2015. Acreage in North Dakota, the largest flaxseed-producing State, is down 17 percent or 70,000 acres from the previous year.

Cotton: Growers intend to plant 9.56 million acres in 2016, up 11 percent from last year. Despite the expected increase, if realized, this will be the seventh lowest planted acreage on record in the United States. Upland area is expected to total 9.35 million acres, up 11 percent from 2015. American Pima area is expected to total 215,000 acres, up 36 percent from 2015.

Growers in all States except North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia are expected to increase planted acreage from last year. If realized, upland cotton planted area in California for 2016 will be a record low.

Sugarbeets: Area expected to be planted to sugarbeets for the 2016 crop year is estimated at 1.16 million acres, virtually unchanged from 2015. Intended plantings are below the previous year in five of the eleven estimating States and above in three States.

Tobacco: United States all tobacco area for harvest in 2016 is expected to be 314,450 acres, down 4 percent from 2015. Flue-cured tobacco, at 209,000 acres, is 4 percent below 2015 and accounts for 66 percent of this year's total tobacco acreage. Total light air-cured tobacco type area, at 80,750 acres, is virtually unchanged from 2015. Burley tobacco, at 79,150 acres, is up slightly from last year.

Fire-cured tobacco, at 17,350 acres, is down 2 percent from 2015. Dark air-cured tobacco, at 5,950 acres, is 4 percent below last year. Cigar filler tobacco, at 1,400 acres is down 13 percent from the previous year.

Spring potatoes: Area planted to spring potatoes is expected to be 55,000 acres for the 2016 season, down 22 percent from 2015. Beginning with the 2016 season, Arizona was removed from the spring potato estimating program, and North Carolina was moved to the summer potato estimating program.

Sweet potatoes: Planted area of sweet potatoes in 2016 is expected to be 169,400 acres, up 8 percent from the previous year. January ending temperatures were above the norm in Mississippi. Rainy conditions during February and March either halted any field preparation, or made it sporadic at best. North Carolina's February topsoil moisture was rated 46 percent adequate and 54 percent surplus making it difficult to progress with field preparation.

Dry beans: Area planted to dry beans in 2016 is expected to be 1.56 million acres, down 12 percent from the previous season. Expected area planted for all chickpeas is 246,000 acres, up 19 percent from last season. Small chickpeas, at 83,000 acres, is 15 percent above 2015, while large chickpeas, at 163,000 acres, increased 20 percent from the previous year. If realized, both small and all chickpea acreage will be a record high. Strong prices and demand have encouraged farmers to increase chickpea area.

Six of the 11 estimating States expect a decrease in planted acres from last year. The top four producing States in 2015, which included Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota, are expecting lower acreage than a year ago.

Lentils: Area planted for the 2016 crop year is expected to total 850,000 acres, up 72 percent from 2015. Prospective plantings are up in all program States which includes Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington. Montana's anticipated area is up 113 percent from 2015, while North Dakota growers expect to plant 45 percent more acres than a year ago. If realized, planted acreage will be record high in Montana and the United States. Strong prices and demand have been reported.

Dry edible peas: Area planted for the 2016 crop year is expected to total 1.42 million acres, up 24 percent from 2015. If realized, this will be a record high planted area. Prospective plantings are up in North Dakota and Oregon, but down in Idaho, Montana, and Washington. If realized, North Dakota's expected planted area, at 640,000 acres, will be a record high. Nebraska and South Dakota were added to the estimating program this year.

Austrian winter peas: Intended planted area for 2016 is estimated at 31,000 acres, down 9 percent from 2015. Growers in Idaho indicated an acreage increase, while Montana farmers anticipate lower plantings from a year ago. No planted acreage change is anticipated in Oregon.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: The acreage estimates in this report are based primarily on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March. The March Agricultural Survey is a probability survey that includes a sample of over 83,000 farm operators selected from a list of producers that ensures all operations in the United States have a chance to be selected. These operators were contacted by mail, internet, telephone, or personal interview to obtain information on crop acreage intentions for the 2016 crop year.

Estimating Procedures: National, Regional, State, and grower reported data were reviewed for reasonableness and consistency with historical estimates. Each Regional Field 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, 2016. 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 10, 2016, 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 1.5 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 1.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 2.6 percent.

Also, shown in the following 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 1.04 million acres, ranging from 32,000 acres to 3.07 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

[Based on data for the past twenty years]

Crop	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence interval	Difference between forecast and final estimate				
			Thousand acres			Years	
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Below final	Above final
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(number)	(number)
Barley	7.1	12.3	234	31	455	5	15
Corn for grain	1.5	2.6	1,042	32	3,073	7	13
Oats	7.0	12.1	189	21	660	3	17
Sorghum for grain	9.4	16.2	655	31	2,471	13	7
Soybeans for beans	2.1	3.6	1,290	25	3,296	10	10
Upland cotton	6.4	11.0	620	6	2,115	11	9
Wheat							
Winter wheat	1.8	3.0	592	52	1,290	7	13
Durum wheat	20.5	35.4	241	15	1,028	12	8
Other spring	6.4	11.0	709	12	2,543	10	10

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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