

Planted acres rise for corn, sorghum

Written by Gothenburg Times
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Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage planted to corn, sorghum, dry edible beans, and oats, while decreasing acreage devoted to soybeans, hay, wheat (sown last fall), sunflowers, and sugarbeets, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office.

Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 10.3 million acres for all purposes in 2012, up 5% from 2011 and the largest acreage since 1933.

Soybean producers intend to plant 4.7 million acres, down 4% from a year earlier.

Hay acreage for harvest, at 2.4 million, is expected to be down 3% from last year.

Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.35 million acres, down 11% from 2011. This is the smallest winter wheat acreage planted in Nebraska since records began in 1909.

Sorghum growers expect to plant 165,000 acres, up 10% from last year.

Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 155,000 acres, up 41% from 2011.

Oat planting intentions, at 75,000 acres, are up 15,000 acres from 2011.

Sunflower planting intentions, at 50,000 acres, are down 9,000 acres from last year.

Sugarbeet plantings, at 50,000 acres, are down 4% from a year ago.

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These acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted the first two weeks of March. This report is intended to assist growers in finalizing their acreage plans for 2012. Actual area planted may vary from that indicated due to farmer's final assessment of planting options, effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in price expectations for the coming crop year.