

2009 corn, soybean, wheat prospects good

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Based on Aug. 1 conditions, Nebraska's corn crop is forecast at 1.52 billion bushels, 9% above last year and the highest of record, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office.

Area to be harvested for grain, at 9.15 million acres, is up 7% from a year ago. Yield is forecast at 166 bushels per acre, 3 bushels above last year and tying the record high set in 2004.

"Although rainfall has been below normal throughout much of the dryland growing areas in the state, temperatures have been significantly lower as well, limiting crop moisture demands," said Joseph Parsons, director of the Nebraska Field Office. "This coupled with irrigated corn prospects which are in line with past years have contributed to the excellent yield forecast."

Soybean production in Nebraska is forecast at 228 million bushels, 1% above last year and third highest of record. Area for harvest, at 4.65 million acres, is down 4% from 2008. Yield is forecast at 49 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from last year and fourth highest of record.

Nebraska's 2009 winter wheat crop is forecast at 78.2 million bushels, unchanged from last month's forecast but 6% above last year's crop. Area for grain, at 1.63 million acres, is unchanged from last month but 2% below last year. Yield is forecast at 48 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, 4 bushels above last year, and equal to the record high set in 1999.

Sorghum yield is forecast at 90 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year. Production is forecast at 14.9 million bushels, down 22% from a year ago. Oat yield is forecast at 61 bushels per acre, 9 bushels below last year. Production of 1.53 million bushels is 38% below last year.

Dry edible bean production is down 6% from last year. Sugarbeet production is up 49% from 2008, a result of more acres for harvest and a higher yield than a year ago. Alfalfa hay production is forecast to be 1% above last year and all other hay production is down 1%.