



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Kentucky Field Office



# News Release

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## EXPECTED WHEAT PRODUCTION DECLINES

**Kentucky** farmers expect to produce 24.0 million bushels of **winter wheat** according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The forecast was based on crop conditions as of July 1 and represented a 9 percent decrease in production from the June estimate. The expected 2009 crop will be down 27 percent from the record high 2008 crop. The expected decrease in the 2009 crop is a result of smaller harvested acreage and lower yields. Yield was forecast at 60 bushels per acre, down 6 bushels from the June estimate and 11 bushels below the 2008 yield. Farmers intend to harvest 400,000 acres for grain, unchanged from June but 60,000 acres below the previous year. There were 530,000 acres of wheat seeded in the fall of 2008. The 130,000 acres not harvested for grain were used as plow down prior to setting tobacco or harvested as hay or silage.

Wet and cool conditions prevailed throughout most of June. These conditions delayed harvest and were conducive to the development of disease problems, particularly fusarium head blight (head scab). Weather and disease pressures along with some lodging problems have lowered wheat yields and test weights. As of June 28, 72 percent of the crop had been harvested which is about normal.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.52 billion bushels. This was up 2 percent from last month but 18 percent below 2008. The U.S. yield was forecast at 43.8 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month and 3.4 bushels below last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 34.8 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2009 but down 12 percent from last year.

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