COLORADO
SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE

Released: March 28, 2013

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS
REVISED

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado growers intend to plant 1,250,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2013, down 170,000 acres and 12 percent below last year’s plantings. Sorghum intentions total 330,000 acres, up 85,000 acres from plantings last year. If intentions are realized, this will be the largest area planted to sorghum in Colorado since 2002 when 350,000 acres were planted. Winter wheat seedings last fall for harvest in 2013 remain estimated at 2,200,000 acres from January’s report. This is down 150,000 acres from the 2012 crop. Growers intend to seed 17,000 acres of spring wheat this year, up 4,000 acres from last year. The area expected to be seeded to oats, at 65,000 acres, is up 10,000 acres from a year ago. Most of the oat acreage in Colorado is harvested for hay. Planting intentions for barley in 2013 are up 2,000 acres from last year’s actual plantings to 60,000 acres. Growers intend to plant 67,000 acres of sunflowers this year, down 19,000 acres from what they planted in 2012. The acreage of oil varieties is expected to total 55,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from last year’s plantings. The area for non-oil varieties is expected to increase 1,000 acres to 12,000 acres this year. The State’s dry bean growers indicate they will plant 40,000 acres this year compared with 50,000 acres last year. The area planted to sugarbeets is expected to decrease 2,100 acres from last year’s actual plantings to 29,100 acres. Hay producers in the State intend to harvest 1,410,000 acres this year. This is down 50,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2012.

Mountain snowpack is currently 79 percent of average, statewide. Soil moisture is quite variable across the State with most growing areas having adequate to very short soil moisture supplies at this point in the growing season. Final acreages actually planted for several crops will be determined by irrigation water prospects, soil moisture levels at planting time, and changes in economic conditions between now and actual planting.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn growers intend to plant 97.3 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2013, up slightly from last year and 6 percent higher than in 2011. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 1936 when an estimated 102 million acres were planted.

Soybean planted area for 2013 is estimated at 77.1 million acres, down slightly from last year but the fourth highest on record, if realized. Compared with 2012, planted area is down across the Great Plains with the exception of North Dakota. Nebraska and Minnesota are expecting the largest declines compared with last year, while Illinois and North Dakota are expecting the largest increases.

Area seeded to oats for the 2013 crop year is expected to total 2.90 million acres, up 5 percent from 2012. If realized, this will still be the third lowest United States total on record. Record low acreage is expected in California, Idaho, Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Wyoming. Arkansas, Illinois, New York, Virginia, and Wyoming.

Barley producers intend to seed 3.63 million acres of barley for the 2013 crop year, down slightly from the previous year. If realized, this will be the fifth smallest seeded area on record. Record low acreage is expected in Michigan.

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The 2013 winter wheat planted area at 42.0 million acres, is 2 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 28.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 9.67 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.39 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2013 is expected to total 12.7 million acres, up 3 percent from 2012. Of this total, about 12.1 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2013 is estimated at 1.75 million acres, down 18 percent from the previous year.

Producers expect to harvest 56.4 million acres of all hay in 2013, up slightly from 2012. Hay acreage is expected to decline from last year across most of the eastern States, Southwest, and Great Lakes region. Record low acreage is expected across several New England States, as well as Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In contrast, Arkansas is expecting record high acreage in 2013.

Sunflower growers intend to plant a total of 1.68 million acres in 2013, down 12 percent from last year. Planted area for the Nation will be the second lowest since 1976, if realized. Area intended for oil type varieties, at 1.40 million acres, is down 16 percent from 2012 and will be the second lowest planted area since 1990, if realized. The area intended for non-oil varieties, estimated at 285,000 acres, is up 9 percent from last year but will still be the third lowest planted area since 1987, if realized.

Area planted to sugarbeets for the 2013 crop year is expected to total 1.20 million acres, down 2 percent from the 1.23 million acres planted in 2012. Planted area is expected to decrease from the previous year in seven of the ten estimating States.

Dry Bean growers intend to plant 1.50 million acres in 2013, down 14 percent from last year. Expected area planted for all chickpeas is 214,300 acres, up 3 percent from last season. Small chickpea area, at 67,000 acres, is 4 percent lower than 2012. Large chickpea area, at 147,300 acres, is expected to be 6 percent above last year.

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