CROP PRODUCTION - JULY 2012

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Colorado is now forecast at 83.25 million bushels according to the Colorado Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This is down 5 percent from the June 1 forecast but 7 percent above last year’s production. Growers expect to harvest 2.25 million acres this year, up 250,000 acres from 2011. The state’s average yield is forecast at 37.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels per acre below the yield attained the previous year and 2.0 bushels per acre below the June forecast. Barley production is initially forecast at 6.88 million bushels, down 13 percent from the 2011 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 55,000 acres, down from 63,000 harvested last year and yield is forecast at 125.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel less than last year. Fall potato growers in the San Luis Valley planted 55,100 acres this year, up 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 55,000 acres, up 1,100 acres from 2011. The first 2012 fall potato production forecast will be released November 9, 2012. Summer potato production is expected to reach 2.01 million hundredweight for 2012 up 24 percent from the 2011 crop. Growers expect to harvest 5,300 acres this year, up 20 percent from the previous year and 300 acres above the acreage forecast released in June. Average yield is initially forecast at 380 hundredweight per acre, 10 hundredweight above last year’s yield.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.67 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the June 1 forecast but up 12 percent from 2011. Based on July 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 47.7 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from last month and 1.5 bushels more than last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 35.0 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 29, 2012 but up 8 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter, at 1.01 billion bushels, is down 1 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter production is up slightly from last month and now totals 429 million bushels. White Winter production totals 232 million bushels, up slightly from last month. Of this total, 14.0 million bushels are Hard White and 218 million bushels are Soft White.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 472 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 11.7 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released June 29, 2012 but down 3 percent from last year. The United States yield is forecast at 40.4 bushels per acre, 2.7 bushels above 2011. Of the total production, 435 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 10 percent from last year.

Oats production is forecast at 65.3 million bushels, up 22 percent from the record low production in 2011. If realized, this will be the second lowest production on record. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 59.8 bushels per acre, up 2.7 bushels from 2011. Growers expect to harvest 1.09 million acres for grain or seed, unchanged from Acreage report released June 29, 2012 but up 16 percent from the record low last year.

Barley production for 2012 is forecast at 217 million bushels, up 39 percent from 2011. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 66.3 bushels per acre, down 3.3 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 3.27 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 46 percent from 2011.

Potato growers across the United States planted an estimated 1.15 million acres of potatoes in all four seasons of the 2012 crop year, up 5 percent from the previous year. Area for harvest, forecast at 1.13 million acres, is up 5 percent from 2011. Area planted to fall potatoes in 2012 is estimated at 1.00 million acres, up 5 percent from the 2011 crop year. Harvested area forecast at 990,800 acres, is up 6 percent from 2011. In Idaho, acreage is at the highest level since 2007. In Washington, planted acreage is the highest since 2000. In the eastern United States, a warm, dry spring allowed planting to progress ahead of schedule. Maine growers reported optimal growing conditions due to warm weather and timely rainfall. In North Dakota, potato emergence was ahead of average in May and June and topsoil moisture was reported to be adequate to surplus in the major growing areas.

Production of summer potatoes is forecast at 16.3 million cwt, up 25 percent from 2011. Harvested area is estimated at 47,500 acres, 3 percent above last year. Average yield is forecast at 342 cwt per acre, up 60 cwt from 2011. Mid-Atlantic potato acreage benefitted from timely rains and hot weather leading to excellent growth. In Colorado, an early Spring allowed growers to plant ahead of schedule but yields were reportedly variable due to limited water availability.