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ONIONS

Colorado producers expect to harvest 7,200 acres of summer storage onions in 2008, down 500 acres from last year. Cool spring temperatures delayed planting this year. By the beginning of July, crop conditions ranged from good to fair. The first production forecast will be released on October 3, 2008.

Production of spring onions in 2008 is forecast at 11.0 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year. The crop is produced on 29,000 harvested acres. The average yield is 378 cwt per acre, 48 cwt above 2007. In Texas, a hard mid-December freeze adversely affected spring planting; however, yields are reported to be above average. In California, cool weather, delayed plant growth. In Georgia, rainfall during the winter months was near normal while rainfall during the spring was well below normal. The State is currently under drought conditions; however, temperatures were near normal during the spring. Disease problems for the onion crop have been minimal. The crop is in good condition with high yields reported. Harvest was 90 percent complete by the end of May, which is near normal.

Growers expect to harvest 100,150 acres of storage onions this year, down 7 percent from last year. In California, cool temperatures slowed development which delayed harvest and produced low yields. In southern California, non-storage onion growers reported water shortages throughout the area. In Colorado, mountain snowpack was excellent this growing season. Idaho's onion crop was delayed due to cool spring weather. In Michigan, planting of this year's crop was on schedule showing good growth towards the middle of May. However, flooding in early June caused damage to some onion fields. In New York, planting of the onion crop was on schedule and reported to be in good condition. In Malheur County Oregon, planting was delayed due to cold and wet spring conditions. Harvest is expected to be two to three weeks behind schedule. In the "Other Area" of Oregon,

planting was delayed due to rainy and cold conditions during spring. However, the onion crop is reported to be in good condition.

Onions for Fresh Market 2007-2008 Crops

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	for 2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
Spring 1/	31,000	29,000	330	378	10,230	10,955
Summer 1/						
Non-Storage	20,700	19,600	548	529	11,347	10,378
Storage 2/						
CA 3/	30,500	30,000	425	2/	12,975	2/
CO	7,700	7,200	410	2/	3,157	2/
ID	9,100	8,400	750	2/	6,825	2/
MI	2,500	2,500	260	2/	650	2/
NY	12,300	11,000	360	2/	4,428	2/
OR-Malheur	12,000	10,600	780	2/	9,360	2/
OR-Other	8,800	8,800	620	2/	5,456	2/
WA	21,000	19,000	610	2/	12,810	2/
WI	1,800	1,100	370	2/	666	2/
Other	2,080	1,550	470	2/	978	2/
Subtotal	107,780	100,150	532	2/	57,305	2/
Total Summer...	128,480	119,750	534	2/	68,652	2/
U.S.	159,480	148,750	495	2/	78,882	2/

1/ Primarily fresh marketing. 2/ Yield and production for 2008 will be published 10/3/08. 3/ Primarily for processing.

**CROP PRODUCTION
JULY 12, 2008
COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS**

Winter wheat production in Colorado is forecast at 56.0 million bushels according to the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 11 percent from the June 1 forecast and is 38.0 million bushels below last year's production. Growers expect to harvest 2.0 million acres this year, down 350,000 acres from 2007. The state's average yield is forecast at 28.0 bushels per acre, 12.0 bushels per acre below the previous year and 2.0 bushels per acre below the June forecast. Dry conditions in the major growing areas during June reduced yield potential. Barley production is initially forecast at 9.36 million bushels, up 29 percent from the 2007 crop. An increase in harvested acreage more that offset a decrease in expected yield. Acreage harvested is expected to total 78,000 acres, up from 58,000 harvested last year and yield is forecasted at 120.0 bushels per acre, down from the 125.0 bushels per acre attained last year.

Fall potato growers in the San Luis Valley planted 57,000 acres this year, down 4 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 56,700 acres which is 2,400 acres less than 2007. The first 2008 fall potato production forecast will be released November 10, 2008. **Summer potato** production is expected to reach 1.44 million cwt for 2008, up 47 percent from the 2007 crop. Growers expect to harvest 4,000 acres this year, up 43 percent from the previous year. Average yield is initially forecast at 360 cwt per acre 10 cwt above last year's yield.

Colorado's 2008 **peach** crop is initially forecast at 15,000 tons, up two thousand tons from last year. If realized, this will be the largest Colorado peach crop since 1969. Spring freeze damage was less than last year depending on location and available freeze protection devices. Irrigation water supplies on the Western Slope have been adequate this year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.86 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the June 1 forecast and up 23 percent from 2007. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 4.1 bushels above last year. Expected grain area totals 40.3 million acres, up 12 percent from last year but unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2008. Harvest progress in the 18 major producing States was 36 percent complete as of June 29. This was the same as last year's progress but 12 points behind the 5-year average. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 507 million bushels, up 6 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 36.8 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 13.8 million acres, up 6 percent from last year.

Oats production is forecast at 92.9 million bushels, 1 percent above last year's record low 91.6 million bushels. If realized, this will be the second lowest production on record. Based on conditions as of July 1, the yield is forecast at 64.4 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from 2007. Growers expect to harvest 1.44 million acres for grain or seed, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest harvested area on record. **Barley** production for 2008 is forecast at 218 million bushels, 3 percent above 2007. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the U.S. is forecast at 59.8 bushels per acre, down less than 1 bushel from last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain or seed, at 3.64 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2007.

The U.S. **peach** production forecast is 1.10 million tons, down

3 percent from 2007 but 9 percent above the 2006 crop. Nineteen of the 28 Freestone peach estimating States expect increases in production from last year, while eight States decreased their production from the previous season, and one State showed no change. The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 380,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast but 24 percent below the 2007 crop. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefitting the Clingstone crop. Weather during the bloom period was also favorable; however, unusually cold temperatures on April 19 and 20 resulted in significant frost damage. The largest impact was reported in the northern growing areas, with some growers reporting 100 percent damage. There were also a large number of growers reporting losses in the Modesto area. However, fruit in the southern growing areas was not affected. The 2008 peach harvest began in Kingsburg on June 18, four days later than last year. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 430,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast but 4 percent below the 2007 crop. Weather during the bloom period was very accommodating, although cooler spring temperatures slowed maturity. The crop was reported to be of excellent quality, with good sizes. Harvest continued during June with July Flame, Sierra Rich, Ice Princess, Rich Lady, and Galaxy varieties being picked.

Fall potatoes area planted to fall potatoes for 2008 is estimated at 929,100 acres, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below 2006. Harvested area is forecast at 916,200 acres, also down 8 percent from 2007 and 7 percent below 2006.

Production of **summer potatoes** is forecast at 14.6 million cwt, down 14 percent from 2007. Harvested area is estimated at 45,500 acres, 11 percent below last year. Average yield is forecast at 321 cwt per acre, down 3 cwt from 2007.

Growers in Colorado and Virginia are expecting an increase in this year's crop while all other States are forecasting decreases from last year. Production in Colorado is expected to be up 47 percent from 2007 and Virginia is expecting a 16 percent increase in production from last year. Missouri forecasted a 53 percent decrease in production followed by Illinois and New Jersey, at 32 percent and 25 percent, respectively. Maryland is expecting production to be down 18 percent from 2007; Delaware's production is expected to decrease by 12 percent; and production in Kansas is down 11 percent from last year. In California, summer potato production is down 11 percent from 2007 and Texas expects to see a decrease of 9 percent from last year.

Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2007-2008

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
Colorado:									
All Corn <u>1/</u>	1,200	1,300	1,060	1,170	Bu.	142.0	5/	150,520	5/
All Sorghum <u>1/</u>	220	230	150	180	Bu.	37.0	5/	5,550	5/
All Wheat	2,520	2,190	2,369	2,038	Bu.	40.3	6/	95,520	6/
Winter Wheat	2,500	2,150	2,350	2,000	Bu.	40.0	28.0	94,000	56,000
Spring Wheat.....	20	40	19	38	Bu.	80.0	6/	1,520	6/
Oats.....	75	45	10	10	Bu.	80.0	5/	800	5/
Barley	60	80	58	78	Bu.	125.0	120.0	7,250	9,360
Proso Millet	270	330	260	4/	Bu.	33.0	4/	8,580	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	1,550	1,580	Tons	2.83	5/	4,385	5/
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	800	830	Tons	3.70	5/	2,960	5/
Other Hay .....	...	...	750	750	Tons	1.90	5/	1,425	5/
Sugarbeets	32.0	34.8	29.2	31.5	Tons	26.2	5/	765	5/
Dry edible beans.....	48.0	55.0	46.0	51.0	Cwt.	1,600	5/	736	5/
Sunflowers, All.....	119.0	170.0	113.0	158.0	Lbs.	1,202	7/	135,800	7/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	105.0	145.0	100.0	135.0	Lbs.	1,150	7/	115,000	7/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil...	14.0	25.0	13.0	23.0	Lbs.	1,600	7/	20,800	7/
All potatoes.....	62.2	8/	61.9	8/	Cwt.	355	8/	21,989	8/
Summer potatoes	3.0	4.4	2.8	4.0	Cwt.	350	360	980	1,440
Fall potatoes.....	59.2	57.0	59.1	56.7	Cwt.	355	8/	20,981	8/
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	13,000	5/
Peaches .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	13,000	15,000
Pears .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,700	5/
United States:									
All Corn <u>1/</u>	93,600	87,327	86,542	78,940	Bu.	151.1	5/	13,073,893	5/
All Sorghum <u>1/</u>	7,718	7,271	6,805	6,405	Bu.	74.2	5/	504,993	5/
All Wheat <u>2/</u>	60,433	63,457	51,011	56,586	Bu.	40.5	43.5	2,066,722	2,460,686
Winter Wheat	44,987	46,605	35,952	40,252	Bu.	42.2	46.3	1,515,989	1,864,245
Spring Wheat.....	13,297	14,197	12,947	13,751	Bu.	37.0	36.8	479,047	506,568
Oats.....	3,760	3,467	1,505	1,443	Bu.	60.9	64.4	91,599	92,872
Barley	4,020	4,130	3,508	3,640	Bu.	60.4	59.8	211,825	217,819
Rye.....	1,376	1,190	289.0	266.0	Bu.	27.4	6/	7,914	6/
Proso Millet	570.0	605.0	515.0	4/	Bu.	32.3	4/	16,615	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	61,625	60,439	Tons	2.44	5/	150,304	5/
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	21,670	20,778	Tons	3.35	5/	72,575	5/
Other Hay .....	...	...	39,955	39,661	Tons	1.95	5/	77,729	5/
Sugarbeets	1,268.8	1,080.1	1,246.8	1,027.3	Tons	25.6	5/	31,912	5/
Dry edible beans.....	1,526.9	1,398.0	1,478.7	1,339.2	Cwt.	1,716	5/	25,371	5/
Sunflowers, All.....	2,068.0	2,164.0	2,009.5	2,062.5	Lbs.	1,437	7/	2,888,555	7/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	1,764	1,850	1,717	1,768	Lbs.	1,454	7/	2,496,970	7/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil.....	304.0	314.0	292.5	294.5	Lbs.	1,339	7/	391,585	7/
All potatoes <u>3/</u>	1,148.6	1,057.3	1,129.7	1,040.4	Cwt.	397	8/	448,407	8/
Summer potatoes	53.7	48.0	51.3	45.5	Cwt.	332	321	17,032	14,627
Fall potatoes.....	1,010.6	929.1	996.7	916.2	Cwt.	410	8/	409,082	8/
Soybeans.....	63,631	74,533	62,820	72,121	Bu.	41.2	5/	2,585,207	5/
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,113,900	5/
Peaches .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,128.7	1,097.2
Pears .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	873.0	5/

1/ Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain. 2/ Includes Durum Wheat. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops. 4/ Jan. 2009. 5/ August 10, 2008. 6/ September 28, 2008. 7/ October 12, 2008. 8/ November 9, 2008.

**MILK PRODUCTION
JUNE 2008**

Milk production in Colorado during the June 2008 totaled 248 million pounds, up 17 million pounds from the 231 million pounds produced during the same period a year earlier. The average number of milk cows for June of this year was 128,000 head, up 10,000 head from June 2007. Production per cow averaged 1,940 pounds for June, down 20 pounds from the 1,960 produced a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during June totaled 14.7 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent from June 2007. May revised production at 15.4 billion pounds, was up 3.5 percent from May 2007. The May revision represented an increase of 14 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,737 pounds for June, 25 pounds above June 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.46 million head, 158,000 head more than June 2007, and 1,000 head more than May 2008. Milk production in the U.S. during the April - June quarter totaled 48.7 billion pounds, up 2.7 percent from the April - June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.27 million head, 136,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Production, June, 2007-2008

Item	Unit	2007	2008
Colorado:			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u>	1,000 head	118	128
Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>	Lbs.	1,960	1,940
Production <u>2/</u>	Mil. lbs.	231	248
United States:			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u>	1,000 head	8,302	8,460
Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>	Lbs.	1,712	1,737
Production <u>2/</u>	Mil. lbs.	14,216	14,697

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at:<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

- July 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- July 22 - Cold Storage
- July 25 - Cattle
- July 25 - Cattle on Feed
- July 25 - Livestock Slaughter
- July 25 - Sheep
- July 31 - Agricultural Prices
- Aug 4 - Dairy Products

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