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**Released: August 19, 2009**

**Vol. 29 No. 16**

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# AG UPDATE

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Pastureland rented for cash averaged \$5.80 per acre in 2009, up 30 cents from the previous year.

Cash rents per acre paid to landlords for cropland in **48 States** rose \$4.50 (5.3 percent), while pasture rents remained unchanged for the 2009 crop and grazing year. Cropland cash rents paid in 2009 averaged \$90.00 per acre, compared with \$85.50 per acre for 2008. Pasture cash rents averaged \$10.50 per acre, consistent with the 2008 price but above the 2007 price of \$10.00. The increase in cropland rental rates are the result of producers receiving strong commodity prices, while pasture cash rent is affected less by commodity prices and more by land values.

The Northern Plains region had the highest percentage increase for cropland, 7.6 percent above 2008. Cropland cash rents increased \$9.00 per acre to \$196.00 in the Pacific region and \$7.00 per acre to \$146.00 in the Corn Belt region. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions account for nearly half of the cash rented cropland acreage in the U.S.

The major corn and soybean producing States of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa experienced increases of 4.3, 4.4, and 5.9 percent respectively, for cropland cash rents. Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa cropland cash rents averaged \$170.00, \$141.00, and \$180.00 per acre, respectively.

While pasture rent in the Northern Plains and the Mountain regions remained unchanged from the previous year, rents in the Southern Plains decreased by 20 cents. The Northern Plains, Southern Plains, and Mountain regions account for nearly 81 percent of the cash rented pasture acreage in the United States. The cash rent paid for pasture in the Corn Belt region decreased \$1.00 to \$31.00 per acre, which is the highest cash rent paid for pasture in the United States.

## CROP PRODUCTION

**AUGUST 1, 2009**

### COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

**Colorado's** spring and summer crop prospects are improved compared with last year's results. A moist spring and summer benefited all field crops, particularly the dryland crops such as winter wheat and sorghum.

**Winter wheat** production is now forecast at 93.6 million bushels, up 4.8 million bushels from July 1 and up 64 percent from the 57.0 million bushels produced last year. Growers harvested an estimated 2.4 million acres this year with an average yield of 39.0 bushels per acre, 9.0 bushels above the previous year. **Barley** production is forecast at 9.36 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year's crop of 8.64 million bushels. The area for harvest in 2009, at 78,000 acres, is up

## LAND VALUES

The farm real estate value of all land and buildings in **Colorado** averaged \$1,100 per acre as of January 1, 2009, down 4.3 percent from the previous year. The average value of all cropland, at \$1,300 per acre, decreased 0.8 percent while the average value of pastureland decreased 5.6 percent to \$670 per acre. The average value of irrigated cropland increased 1.6 percent to \$3,150 per acre and the value of non-irrigated land decreased 5.6 percent to \$840 per acre.

Farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms in **48 States**, averaged \$2,100 per acre on January 1, 2009, down 3.2 percent from 2008. The 3.2 percent decrease from 2008 is the first decline in farm real estate value since 1987. Regional changes in the average value of farm real estate ranged from virtually no change in the Northern and Southern Plains regions to an 11 percent decline in the Mountain region. The highest farm real estate values remained in the Northeast region at \$4,830 per acre. The Mountain region had the lowest farm real estate value, \$922 per acre.

Both cropland and pasture values are also down from the previous year. Cropland values declined by \$110 per acre (3.9 percent) to \$2,650 per acre. In the Cornbelt region, the average cropland value decreased 4.0 percent from the previous year, to \$3,870 per acre. However, in the Northern Plains and Delta regions, cropland values rose 1.6 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively. Pasture value declined by \$20 per acre (1.8 percent) from 2008 to \$1,070 per acre. The Mountain region had the largest percentage decrease in pasture value, 16 percent below 2008.

The contraction in the overall economy has caused less commercial and residential development in many regions. Livestock and crop commodity prices have declined from a year earlier, thus producers and investors are less optimistic than a year ago. A decrease in the demand for recreational land has also contributed to the overall decrease in land values.

## CASH RENTS

Cash rent for **Colorado** cropland in 2009 decreased 7.4 percent from a year earlier to \$38 per acre. The average cash rent for irrigated cropland, at \$111 per acre, was up slightly from the previous year. Cash rent for non-irrigated cropland, at \$23.00, per acre was down \$1.00 from a year ago.

from last year by 6,000 acres. Barley yield is estimated at 120.0 bushels per acre, equal to last year's average and unchanged from the July 1 forecast.

**Corn** production is forecasted at 140.0 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year's 148.0 million bushels. The 1.0 million acres expected to be harvested for grain this year is 7 percent less than a year ago. Average yield is expected to increase 3.0 bushels per acre from last year to 140.0. **Sorghum** production in 2009 is forecast at 4.9 million bushels, up 9 percent from the 4.5 million bushel crop harvested a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 140,000 acres this year, down from 150,000 acres harvested last year. Yield prospects are 5.0 bushels above a year ago as producers expect to average 35.0 bushels per acre this year.

**Dry bean** production for 2009 is forecast at 858,000 hundredweight, up 30 percent from the 660,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 52,000 acres this year, up 6,000 acres from the June Acreage report and up from 44,000 acres last year. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at just under 1.02 million tons, up 34 percent from 758,000 tons produced in 2008. Growers expect to harvest 35,000 acres this year compared with 29,600 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 29.0 tons per acre, up from 26.5 a year ago.

Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 840,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, up from 820,000 acres harvested in 2008. They also expect to harvest 760,000 acres of **other hay** in 2009, up 10,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 3.36 million tons compared with 2.71 million tons produced in 2008 and other hay is estimated at 1.67 million tons, up 31 percent from 1.28 million tons a year ago.

Colorado's **apple** production for this year is forecast at 16.0 million pounds, down from last year's production, of 18.0 million pounds due to late frosts that occurred in the major growing areas. The 2008 **peach** crop is expected to decrease 1,000 tons from last year to 13,000 tons.

#### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**All wheat** production, at 2.18 billion bushels, is up 3 percent from the July forecast but down 13 percent from 2008. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.3 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from last month but 1.6 bushels below last year. **Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.54 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month but down 18 percent from 2008. The U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from last month but down 3.0 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 34.8 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 12 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter, at 915 million bushels, is up 1 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter, at 412 million bushels, is down slightly from the last forecast. White Winter is up 1 percent from last month and now totals 211 million bushels. Of this total, 23.1 million bushels are Hard White and 188 million bushels are Soft White. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 98.0 million

bushels, up 21 percent from July and up 15 percent from 2008. The U.S. yield is forecast at 39.9 bushels per acre, up 6.8 bushels from last month and 7.1 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be a record yield, 0.2 bushel higher than the previous record set in 1992. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 2.45 million acres, unchanged from the last month but down 5 percent from last year. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 548 million bushels, up 8 percent from last month and up slightly from 2008. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 13.2 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 2 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.5 bushels per acre, 3.2 bushels above last month and 1.0 bushel above 2008. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record, trailing only 2004 and 1992. Of the total production, 511 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 9 percent from last month.

**Barley** production for 2009 is forecast at 207 million bushels, up 2 percent from the previous forecast but down 14 percent from 2008. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the U.S. is forecast at 65.8 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from the previous forecast and 2.2 bushels from a year ago. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 3.14 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 17 percent from 2008. Record setting yields are expected in Arizona, Kansas, and Wyoming, while a record tying yield is expected in Idaho. Ideal conditions in most barley-growing States allowed for substantial head development during the month. Harvest was underway in most States by the end of the month. On August 2, seventy-eight percent of this year's crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 53 percent a year ago.

**Corn** production is forecast at 12.8 billion bushels; up 5 percent from last year but 2 percent lower than 2007. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 159.5 bushels per acre, up 5.6 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, behind 2004, and production will be the second largest, behind 2007. Forecasted yields are higher than last year across the central Great Plains and western Corn Belt where mild temperatures and adequate soil moisture supplies provided favorable growing conditions. Expected yields were also higher across much of the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys and Atlantic Coast where beneficial moisture this year contrasted with exceptionally dry conditions last year. Yield prospects are lower in the central Corn Belt where excessive spring moisture delayed planting and below normal temperatures slowed corn emergence and development. Growers expect to harvest 80.0 million acres for grain, down 100,000 acres from June but up 2 percent from last year.

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**Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2008-2009**

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009		2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
<b>Colorado:</b>									
All Corn <u>1/</u> .....	1,250	1,150	1,080	1,000	Bu.	137.0	140.0	147,960	140,000
All Sorghum <u>1/</u> .....	230	210	150	140	Bu.	30.0	35.0	4,500	4,900
All Wheat.....	2,190	2,630	1,936	2,429	Bu.	30.8	5/	59,700	5/
Winter Wheat.....	2,150	2,600	1,900	2,400	Bu.	30.0	39.0	57,000	93,600
Spring Wheat.....	40	30	36	29	Bu.	75.0	5/	2,700	5/
Oats.....	45	65	7	10	Bu.	70.0	5/	490	5/
Barley .....	80	80	72	78	Bu.	120.0	120.0	8,640	9,360
Proso Millet.....	270	200	230	4/	Bu.	33.0	4/	7,590	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	1,570	1,600	Tons	2.54	3.1	3,981	5,032
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	820	840	Tons	3.3	4.0	2,706	3,360
Other Hay .....	...	...	750	760	Tons	1.7	2.2	1,275	1,672
Sugarbeets.....	33.8	36.3	28.6	35.0	Tons	26.5	29.0	758	1,015
Dry edible beans .....	48	57	44	52	Cwt.	1,500	1,650	660	858
Sunflowers, All.....	194	95	162	87	Lbs.	947.0	6/	153,400	6/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	170	80	143	73	Lbs.	900	6/	128,700	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil....	24	15	19	14	Lbs.	1,300	6/	24,700	6/
All potatoes.....	61.4	60.0	61.0	59.6	Cwt.	374.0	7/	22,778	7/
Summer potatoes .....	4.4	4.0	4.1	3.8	Cwt.	370.0	380.0	1,517	1,444
Fall potatoes.....	57.0	56.0	56.9	55.8	Cwt.	375.0	7/	21,338	7/
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	18,000	16,000
Peaches .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	14	13
<b>United States:</b>									
All Corn <u>1/</u> .....	85,982	87,035	78,640	80,007	Bu.	153.9	159.5	12,101,238	12,760,986
All Sorghum <u>1/</u> .....	8,284	6,940	7,271	5,948	Bu.	65	64	472,342	380,537
All Wheat <u>2/</u> .....	63,147	59,775	55,685	50,445	Bu.	44.9	41.9	2,499,524	2,183,594
Winter Wheat.....	46,281	43,448	39,614	34,787	Bu.	47.2	44.2	1,867,903	1,537,348
Spring Wheat.....	14,135	13,772	13,487	13,205	Bu.	40.5	41.5	546,744	548,260
Oats.....	3,217	3,158	1,395	1,426	Bu.	63.5	64.5	88,635	91,960
Barley .....	4,234	3,627	3,767	3,142	Bu.	63.6	65.8	239,498	206,728
Rye.....	1,260	1,257	269	278	Bu.	29.7	5/	7,979	5/
Proso Millet.....	520	405	460	4/	Bu.	32.3	4/	14,880	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	60,062	60,177	Tons	2.43	2.52	145,672	151,941
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	20,980	20,982	Tons	3.32	3.48	69,620	72,986
Other Hay .....	...	...	39,082	39,195	Tons	1.95	2.01	76,052	78,955
Sugarbeets.....	1,090.8	1,118.5	1,004.6	1,153.5	Tons	26.7	28.2	26,837	32,473
Dry edible beans .....	1,495.0	1,481.1	1,445.2	1,392.0	Cwt.	1,768	1,750	25,558	24,359
Sunflowers, All.....	2,516.5	2,098.0	2,396.0	1,997.0	Lbs.	1,429	6/	3,422,840	6/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	2,163.0	1,784.0	2,062.0	1,702.2	Lbs.	1,452	6/	2,993,510	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil.....	353.5	314.0	334.0	294.8	Lbs.	1,285	6/	429,330	6/
All potatoes <u>3/</u> .....	1,058.8	1,061.5	1,045.7	1,047.6	Cwt.	395	7/	412,742	7/
Summer potatoes .....	47	44	44.8	42.5	Cwt.	306	341	13,694	14,506
Fall potatoes.....	930.5	932.9	921.1	922.7	Cwt.	409	7/	376,386	7/
Soybeans.....	75,718	77,723	74,641	76,767	Bu.	39.6	41.7	2,959,174	3,199,172
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,769,300	10,113,000
Peaches .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,133.3	1,078.3
Pears .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	870.9	935.3

1/ Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain.    2/ Includes Durum Wheat.    3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops.  
4/ January 2010.    5/ September 30, 2009.    6/ October 9, 2009.    7/ November 10, 2009.

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U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 24.4 million cwt for 2009, down 5 percent from last year and 2007. Planted area is forecast at 1.48 million acres, up 2 percent from the June Acreage report but down 1 percent from a year ago. Harvested area is forecast at 1.39 million acres, down slightly from June and 4 percent below the previous year's harvested acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,750 pounds per acre, a decrease of 18 pounds from 2008. Production is forecast to be lower than 2008 in 6 of the 18 producing States, with the three largest producing States, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Michigan, anticipating lower production than a year ago.

**Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** production is at 73.0 million tons, up 5 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.48 tons per acre, slightly higher than the 3.32 tons last year. Harvested area is forecast at 21.0 million acres, unchanged from June but down 2,000 acres from the previous year's acreage. Yields are within 1 ton of last year in all States, with the majority of the States showing an increase or no change. Only six of the major-producing States decreased from last year: Arizona, California, Illinois, New York, Utah, and Wisconsin.

**Other hay** production is forecast at 79.0 million tons, up 4 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.01 tons per acre, up 0.06 tons from last year. Harvested area, at 39.2 million acres, is unchanged from June but up 113,000 acres from the previous year. Higher moisture levels in the eastern portions of the U.S. and the Pacific Northwest increased yields from last year. Moisture deficiencies have reduced yields in several of the major-producing central States, including Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2009 crop year is forecast at 32.5 million tons, up 21 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2007. Production forecasts increased from last year in all estimating States except Michigan.

The U.S. **apple** forecast for the 2009 crop year is 10.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from last year. Mostly favorable weather conditions for apple production were reported by growers in the apple estimating States. The August 2009 forecast of U.S. **peach** production is 1.08 million tons, up 1 percent from the July 1 forecast but 5 percent below 2008. South Carolina's forecast, at 65,000 tons, is up 5,000 tons from the July 1 forecast and last season's crop. U.S. **pear** production for 2009 is forecast at 935,300 tons, up 7 percent from last year and 2007. Bartlett pear production for California, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 448,000 tons, 6 percent above the June forecast and 7 percent more than a year ago. Other pear production in the Pacific Coast States is expected to total 470,000 tons, 8 percent above last year.

## MILK PRODUCTION JULY 2009

Milk production in **Colorado** during July 2009 totaled 248 million pounds, down 4 million pounds from the 252 million pounds produced during the same period a year earlier. The average number of milk cows for July of this year was 124,000 head, down 5,000 head from July 2008. Production per cow averaged 2,000 pounds for July, up 50 pounds from a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during July totaled 14.9 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from July 2008. June revised production at 14.8 billion pounds, was up 0.1 percent from June 2008. The June revision represented an increase of 34 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,769 pounds for July, 25 pounds above July 2008. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.40 million head, 115,000 head less than July 2008, and 34,000 head less than June 2009.

### Milk Cows and Milk Production, 23 States

Item	Unit	2008	2009
Colorado:			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> /.....	1,000 head	129	124
Milk Per Cow <u>2</u> /.....	Lbs.	1,950	2,000
Production <u>2</u> /.....	Mil. lbs.	252	248
23 State Total:			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> /.....	1,000 head	8,515	8,400
Milk Per Cow <u>2</u> /.....	Lbs.	1,744	1,769
Production /.....	Mil. Lbs.	14,848	14,858

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.nass.usda.gov>

- Aug. 20 - US and Canadian Cattle
- Aug. 20 - Mushrooms
- Aug. 21 - Farm Labor
- Aug. 21 - Cattle on Feed
- Aug. 21 - Chicken and Eggs
- Aug. 21 - Cold Storage
- Aug. 21 - Livestock Slaughter
- Aug. 31 - Agricultural Prices

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