

NEWS RELEASE

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CORN PLANTINGS INCREASE, COTTON PLANTINGS DECREASE

Limited amounts of precipitation continue to dominate most of North Carolina for the month of March. The early weather concerns may have potential impacts on the spring planting season. Also, overall temperatures for the month were above normal for this time of the year. The first significant rainfall for the month fell during the week of March 18th providing a small amount of relief to the dry conditions. Topsoil moisture as of March 25th is rated at 18% short, 74% adequate, and 8% surplus. Farmers have taken full advantage of days suitable for field work during the month and have 95% of cabbage planted and 83% of the Irish potatoes planted.

Corn plantings are expected to total 1.05 million acres in 2007; 260,000 acres more than 2006.

Cotton growers intend to plant 570,000 acres in 2007; down 300,000 acres from last year.

Flue-cured tobacco growers expect to plant 155,000 acres in 2007; unchanged from 2006.

Burley tobacco growers expect to plant 3,600 acres in 2007; down from 3,800 acres in 2006.

Soybean plantings, at 1.40 million acres, are expected to increase 30,000 acres from a year ago.

Peanut growers in the State intend to plant 94,000 acres in 2007; up 11% from 2006.

Sorghum plantings are expected to total 17,000 acres in 2007; unchanged from 2006.

Sweetpotato growers intend to plant 40,000 acres, unchanged from last year.

Hay producers expect to cut 695,000 acres in 2007; up 5,000 acres from 2006.

Oat plantings at 60,000 acres are unchanged from last year.

Barley plantings in at 20,000 acres are down 4,000 acres from 2006

Wheat plantings in North Carolina, at 610,000 acres, are up 9% from 2006.

United States intentions of planted acres with percent changes from 2007 are as follows: corn 90.4 million, up 15%; all cotton 12.1 million, down 20%; flue-cured tobacco 212,000, down 1%; burley tobacco 107,500, up 4%; soybeans 67.1 million, down 11%; peanuts 1.2 million, down 4%; sweetpotatoes 92,900, down 3%; all wheat 60.3 million, up 5% from 2006.

(Table on back)

The acreage estimates in this report are based on a survey conducted the first two weeks of March. For more information or to view and download the entire NASS Prospective Plantings release, please visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>. The next Acreage report will be released June 30, 2007.

2007 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

CROPS	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	2006	2007	Percent	2006	2007	Percent
		Intentions	Change		Intentions	Change
	<i>Thousand Acres</i>		<i>+/-</i>	<i>Thousand Acres</i>		<i>+/-</i>
Barley ³	24	20	-17	3,452	3,703	+7
Corn, All	790	1,050	+33	78,327	90,454	+15
Cotton, All ¹	870	570	-34	15,274	12,147	-20
Hay, All ²	690	695	+1	60,807	63,056	+4
Oats ³	60	60	0	4,168	4,029	-3
Peanuts	85	94	+11	1,243	1,197	-4
Sorghum, All	17	17	0	6,522	7,109	+9
Soybeans	1,370	1,400	+2	75,522	67,140	-11
Sweetpotatoes	40	40	0	95.6	92.9	-3
Tobacco: Burley ²	3.8	3.6	-5	103.6	107.5	+4
Tobacco: Flue-cured ²	155	155	0	213.1	212.0	-1
Wheat, All ³	560	610	+9	57,344	60,303	+5

¹ U.S. includes Upland and American-Pima. ² Data for hay and tobacco represent harvested acres. ³ Includes acreage planted in preceeding fall.