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More Corn and Wheat Acres, Fewer Soybean Acres

Louisville, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the Prospective Plantings report today, showing Kentucky farmers intend to grow more corn, wheat and burley tobacco acres, while indicating a slight decline in the number of soybean acres.

Farmers in Kentucky intend to plant 1.60 million acres of corn, 160,000 higher than 2022. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 92.0 million acres for all purposes in 2023, up 4 percent from last year.

Soybean acreage in Kentucky was expected to total 1.90 million acres, down 50,000 acres from the previous year. U.S. soybean planted area for 2023 is estimated at 87.5 million acres, up slightly from last year.

Burley tobacco growers in Kentucky intend to set 31,000 acres for harvest, up 3,000 acres from 2022. For the burley producing states, growers intend to set 35,370 acres, 9 percent above last year.

Producers intend to set 8,100 acres of dark-fired tobacco in Kentucky, down 1,700 acres from the previous year. Acreage set to dark-air tobacco was estimated at 5,000 acres, down 800 acres from 2022.

Winter wheat seeded by Kentucky farmers in the fall of 2022 totaled 610,000 acres, up 80,000 acres from previous year. Seeded acreage for the nation was 37.5 million acres, up 13 percent from 2022.

Farmers in the state intend to harvest 2.08 million acres of all hay, up 50,000 from 2022. U.S. farmers intend on harvesting 50.6 million acres of hay in 2023, up 2 percent from last year.

Data for the Prospective Plantings report is collected from a sample of farmers during the first two weeks of March. The Acreage report will be published June 30.