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Kentucky Wheat Production Forecasted to Increase

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 34.0 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2023 according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2023 would be up 13% from the previous year. Farmers seeded 610,000 acres last fall with 430,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Based on crop conditions as of May 1 and assuming a normal growing season, farmers expect a yield of 79.0 bushel per acre, down 1.0 bushels from 2022. Acres for other uses totaled 180,000 acres and will be used as cover crop for tobacco or cut as silage or hay.

As of May 7, winter wheat was rated 2% poor, 19% fair, 67% good and 12% excellent. At this same date, crop progress was at 68% headed compared to 51% last year and 60% for the five-year average.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.13 billion bushels, up 2% from 2022. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totaled 25.3 million acres, up 8% from last year. As of May 1, the U.S. yield was forecast at 44.7 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from last year.

As of May 1, **Kentucky** on-farm **hay stocks** totaled 670,000 tons, down 310,000 from May 1, 2022 stocks. Farmers have used 78% of their hay stocks since December 1, 2022.

U. S. hay stocks were at 14.5 million tons, down 2.24 million tons from 2022.

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