



“Prairie Gold” is a term frequently given to the state’s only major food grain crop. Wheat is produced in all regions of the state and is grown in more than 40 of the 63 counties. Prior to the impact of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) implemented in 1986, the Colorado all-wheat crop was valued at more than \$380 million and was the largest valued crop commodity in the state. With the CRP removing approximately one million acres of wheat base from production and increased usage of crop rotations with the “Freedom to Farm” Act implemented in 1996, corn and hay crops have outranked wheat in terms of value of production in some years.

Nevertheless, Colorado is a major wheat producing state, ranking twelfth in 2005, fifteenth in 2006 and eighth in 2007. The 2007 all-wheat crop is valued at approximately \$575,030,400, based upon 2,369,000 acres being harvested with an average yield of 40.3 bushels per acre, resulting in total production of 95,520,000 bushels. Colorado is a major winter wheat producing state, ranking tenth in 2005, twelfth in 2006 and sixth in 2007. Colorado (hard red) winter wheat is planted in September and harvested the following July. (Hard red) winter wheat is used for yeast breads and hard rolls since it is high in protein and strong in gluten. Hard Winter (red and white) wheat is the dominant class of wheat produced in the state, accounting for more than 95 percent of the total. The 2007 Hard Winter wheat crop is valued at an all-time record high of approximately \$565,880,000, based upon 2,350,000 acres being harvested with an average yield of 40.0 bushels per acre, resulting in total production of 94,000,000 bushels. Colorado is also a minor spring wheat producing state, ranking eighth in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Hard Red Spring (HRS) wheat and White wheat are the major classes of wheat produced in the San Luis Valley. The 2007 HRS and White wheat crop is valued at approximately \$9,302,400, based upon 19,000 acres being harvested with an average yield of 80 bushels per acre, resulting in total production of 1,520,000 bushels. HRS wheat is also used for yeast breads and hard rolls since it is high in protein. White wheat is used for cookies and crackers.

More than 80 percent of Colorado’s wheat production is typically exported and is generally one of Colorado’s top ranked exports by dollar volume. During the 2006-07 marketing year, an estimated 33,212,000 bushels of wheat valued at approximately \$152,775,200 was exported to 60 different countries. During this past marketing year, Colorado wheat production created approximately 17,768 jobs.

**For more information**

There are three significant organizations representing Colorado wheat producers: Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee (CWAC); Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG); Colorado Wheat Research Foundation (CWRf). All three organizations have the same staff. For more information please visit [www.coloradowheat.org](http://www.coloradowheat.org) or contact:

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