



FACT SHEET _____ OCTOBER 2002

UNITED STATES WHEAT PRODUCTION

The biotechnology company Monsanto plans to introduce a strain of genetically modified hard red spring wheat into commercial markets by 2005. Wheat farmers are concerned about potentially severe ramifications on the U.S. wheat market.

Consumers in Europe and Asia do not want to buy genetically modified food. Overseas commercial buyers have said that if the United States allows genetically modified wheat on the market, they will buy wheat from other countries.

In order to understand the consequences genetically modified wheat will have on the U.S. wheat market, it helps to understand the importance of wheat to the world's economy and diet.



50% of the U.S. wheat crop is exported, making it the United States' most exported crop.

U.S. Wheat Statistics

- Wheat is the principal cereal grain grown in the United States, ranking fourth in volume of crop production and first in volume of crop export.
- Americans consume 36% of the total U.S. wheat crop. Another 50% is exported. Ten percent is used for livestock, and the remaining 4% is saved for seed.
- 60-63 million acres of wheat are harvested each year, an amount 1/3 the size of Texas.
- 1/5th of the United States' spring wheat crop is exported to the European Union and other European Countries.
- The 2001 wheat crop was the lowest in 30 years.
- Due to lower wheat prices, U.S. wheat farmers harvested only 48,653,000 acres in 2001, yielding nearly 2 billion bushels, worth just over 5.5 billion dollars.
- Americans consume an average of 53 pounds of bread a year.

Hard Red Spring Wheat

- Hard red spring wheat, also known by its sub-classification of "Dark Northern Spring Wheat," has high-protein, high-quality kernels that are best for baking.
- In addition to baking, hard red spring wheat is also used in food thickeners, sweeteners, laundry detergents, paper, and ethyl alcohol.
- 55% of the U.S. hard red spring wheat crop is exported to over 70 countries each year.
- One bushel of wheat weighs about 60 pounds and yields about 42 pounds of flour after milling.
- Hard red spring wheat is grown in eleven states: Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Plains States

- Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota harvest 69% of the total national spring wheat crop.
- North Dakota is the nation's leading producer of hard red spring wheat, harvesting over 234 million bushels a year, almost half the nation's entire spring wheat crop.
- Spring wheat is 80% of North Dakota's total wheat harvest.
- Of the 30,500 farms in North Dakota, over 19,000 are wheat farms, and 17,000 of these grow spring wheat.
- 67% of Montana's wheat crop is spring wheat.
- In 2001, Montana farmers harvested 4,215,000 acres, yielding 96,570,000 bushels of wheat.
- South Dakota's wheat harvest for 2001 totaled over 219 million dollars.
- Spring wheat totalled 84% (\$186 million) of the value of South Dakota's wheat harvest.



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TOPTENWHEAT PRODUCING STATES

2001 Spring Wheat

Amounts in Bushels (1000)

1.	N. Dakota	234,600
2.	Minnesota	79,200
3.	Montana	65,550
4.	S. Dakota	64,350
5.	Idaho	33,320
6.	Washington	25,830
7.	Oregon	5,250
8.	Colorado	3,168
9.	Utah	784
10.	Wisconsin	360

TOP TEN U.S WHEAT IMPORTERS

Amounts in Million Metric Tons

1.	Egypt	4.70 MMT
2.	Japan	3.12 MMT
3.	Mexico	2.03 MMT
4.	Philippines	2.03 MMT
5.	Euro. Union	1.43 MMT
6.	Nigeria	1.43 MMT
7.	Korea	1.40 MMT
8.	Taiwan	1.03 MMT
9.	Indonesia	.75 MMT
10.	Israel	.71 MMT

Sources: Kansas Wheat Commission - <http://www.kswheat.com> - 5/23/2002
 NASS Published Estimates Database - <http://www.usda.gov:81/ipedb> - 5/24/2002
 North Dakota State Extension Service - <http://www.ext.nodak.edu> - 5/24/2002