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Kentucky 2024 Wheat Forecast and May Hay Stocks

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 30.7 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2024 according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2024 would be down 24% from the previous year. Farmers seeded 560,000 acres last fall with 370,000 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 83.0 bushel per acre, down 5.0 bushels from 2023. Acres for other uses totaled 190,000 acres and will be used as cover crop for tobacco or cut as silage or hay.

As of May 5, winter wheat was rated 1% poor, 8% fair, 75% good and 16% excellent. At this same date, crop progress was at 66% headed compared to 60% last year and 57% for the five-year average.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.28 billion bushels, up 2% from 2023. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 25.2 million acres, up 2% from last year. As of May 1, the U.S. yield was forecast at 50.7 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushels from last year.

As of May 1, **Kentucky** on-farm **hay stocks** totaled 610,000 tons, down 20,000 from May 1, 2023 stocks. Farmers have used 80% of their hay stocks since December 1, 2023.

U. S. hay stocks were at 21.0 million tons, up 6.68 million tons from 2023.