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Germany

Grain and Feed

Grain Crop Forecast Reduced

2007

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Report Highlights:

Due to the lasting unusually warm and dry weather during most of March and April 2007 German field crops suffered noticeably. The original optimistic forecast for the German grain harvest 2007 has to be reduced to a total of 44.7 MMT, which is still an average harvest.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

Lowered Outlook for German Grain Harvest 2007

The unusual warm and dry weather since mid-March has lowered the yield expectations for German grains considerably. In addition to the drought stress barley and wheat in the northern half of the country is affected by a dwarf virus infestation. Total German grain harvested is forecast to reach about 44.7 million metric tons (MMT), which is still 1.2 MMT more than in 2006. The predicted yield levels represent trend yields.

Until the end of the first week of May German croplands hardly received any rain for more than seven weeks. Due to sufficient rains in February and early March most regions were well supplied with soil moisture, which offered best chances for an optimistic crop outlook. Soil moisture maps indicate that in most regions available soil moisture levels have dropped to below 50 percent by the beginning of May. For the coming two weeks regional weather forecasts predict rain showers and thunderstorms preventing further crop damages.

German Grain Crop Forecast for 2007

	2006			2007		
	Area 1000 ha	Yield MT/ha	Production 1,000 MT	Area 1000 ha	Yield MT/ha	Production 1,000 MT
Winter Wheat	3,058	7.24	22,128	2,990	7.60	22,724
Spring Wheat	44	5.38	238	40	5.80	232
Durums	12	5.14	62	12	5.89	70
All Wheat	3,115	7.20	22,428	3,042	7.57	23,026
Rye	539	4.91	2,644	650	5.00	3,250
Winter Barley	1,483	6.37	9,451	1,470	6.20	9,114
Spring Barley	542	4.64	2,516	540	4.80	2,592
All Barley	2,025	5.91	11,967	2,010	5.82	11,706
Oats	184	4.52	830	170	4.80	816
Spring Mixed	25	4.10	102	25	4.40	111
Winter Mixed	9	5.11	47	9	5.60	52
Triticale	405	5.53	2,237	369	6.00	2,214
All	439	5.44	2,385	404	5.89	2,377
Corn	401	8.03	3,220	400	8.80	3,520
Grand Total	6,702	6.49	43,475	6,675	6.70	44,695

As result of the dry weather first hay cuts and grass silage harvests have been significantly lower than in previous years. However, the forecast rain for the coming few weeks will provide a promising base for a good second silage harvest since vegetation is about two weeks earlier than in normal years.