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April 26, 1979

April 1, 1979 Prospective Plantings

by

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Observing the planting intentions can give one the first clue as to possible 1979 production of the various grains raised in the United States and in South Dakota. There is still time for some producers to change their plantings from the April 1 indications but they usually do not change much. We can at times see substantial changes from the January 1 planting intentions to what is indicated on April 1. Some of these changes can be attributed to the information gained from the January report, other changes are because of change in price, seed availability, world production, etc. (Tables 1 and 2 give a comparison of 1977 and 1978 acreage planted as well as the January 1 and April 1, 1979 planting intentions.)

Table I
PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS REPORT, SOUTH DAKOTA, 1979

Crop	Acreage Planted		January 1 Intentions 1979	1979 as % of 1978	April 1 Planting Intentions 1979	April 1 Planting Intentions Change Compared With 1978
	1977	1978				
	-----1,000 acres-----			Percent	1,000 acres	Percent
All corn	3,000	3,250	3,250	100	3,250	No change
All sorghum	490	460	440	96	440	Down 4
Oats 1/	2,920	2,570	2,600	101	2,600	Up 1
Barley 1/	680	600	540	90	590	Down 2
Soybeans	320	400	520	130	520	Up 30
Flaxseed 1/	360	295	260	88	290	Down 2
Durum wheat	145	195	210	108	185	Down 5
Other spring wheat 2/	2,350	2,300	2,300	100	2,100	Down 9
All sunflowers	136	165	250	152	350	Up 112

1/ Includes acreage planted in preceding fall. 2/Other than durum.

* Some of the statistics are from the S.D. Crop & Livestock Reporter, Sioux Falls.

Table II
PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS, UNITED STATES, 1979

Grain	Estimated Planted Acres 1978	January 1 Planting Intentions 1979	April 1 Planting Intentions 1979	April 1 Planting Intentions Change Compared With 1978
	-----Million Acres-----			Percent
All corn	79.7	80.5	79.2	Down 0.6
All sorghum	16.5	15.5	15.6	Down 5.2
Oats	16.4	15.7	15.0	Down 8.2
Barley	10.0	9.2	8.6	Down 13.5
Soybeans	64.0	66.5	68.8	Up 7.4
Flaxseed	890.0 th.a.	730.0 th.a.	837.0 th.a.	Down 6.0
Furum wheat	4.1	4.2	4.4	Up 6.6
Other spring wheat	13.3	14.2	14.8	Up 3.7
All wheat	66.1	70.2	70.8	Up 1.1
All sunflowers	2.8	4.1	4.9	Up 75.3

ANALYSIS OF APRIL 1 PLANTING INTENTIONS
(Prices estimated are average farm
prices for eastern 1/3 of South Dakota,
others will vary according to freight
differential)

Oil Seeds. South Dakota farmers have
recognized the highest priced grains for
fall delivery and have made their plant-
ing intentions accordingly. South Dakota
growers indicated an increase of 30 per-
cent in Soybean plantings, a 112 percent
increase in Sunflowers and a 2 percent
decrease in Flaxseed, compared to na-
tional plantings of a 7.4 percent in-
crease in Soybeans, 75.3 percent increase
in Sunflowers and a 6 percent decrease
in Flaxseed. Based on a normal crop,
these plantings should indicate lower
fall prices in the range of \$5.50 for
Soybeans, 8½ to 9¢ on Sunflowers and
\$6.00 for Flax. Nationally, all oil seed
production is up 9 percent. Strong de-
mand may temper any decrease in price.

Feed Grains. Decreases in the pro-
spective plantings of all feed grains;
Corn down .06 percent, Sorghum down 5.2,
Oats down 8.2 and Barley down 13.5 per-
cent, should indicate some higher prices

next year in spite of ample 1978 sup-
plies. The weather from here on will
determine the eventual price, but based
on a normal crop, winter prices of feed
grains could be \$2.25 for Corn, \$1.40
Oats, \$2.10 Sorghum and \$1.80 for Barley.

Hard Red Spring Wheat. Because of the
very large supplies of Hard Red Spring
Wheat, any substantial increases in
price seem very remote. If the Hard
Winter area has low protein, Hard Red
Spring Wheat producers may benefit by an
increase in the protein premiums. The
Wheat market needs something that isn't
currently visible to make fall prices
in excess of \$2.80 a bushel.

Durum Wheat. In spite of increases in
plantings, Durum Wheat may benefit from
higher beef prices. The higher beef
prices go, the more macaroni and spa-
ghetti are eaten. However, it looks
like supplies will be ample to keep top
Durum prices at about \$3.10.

The April 1 planting intentions were
released April 16. The late spring could
have resulted in even less barley, oats
and Spring Wheat being planted than in-
dicated April 1.

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