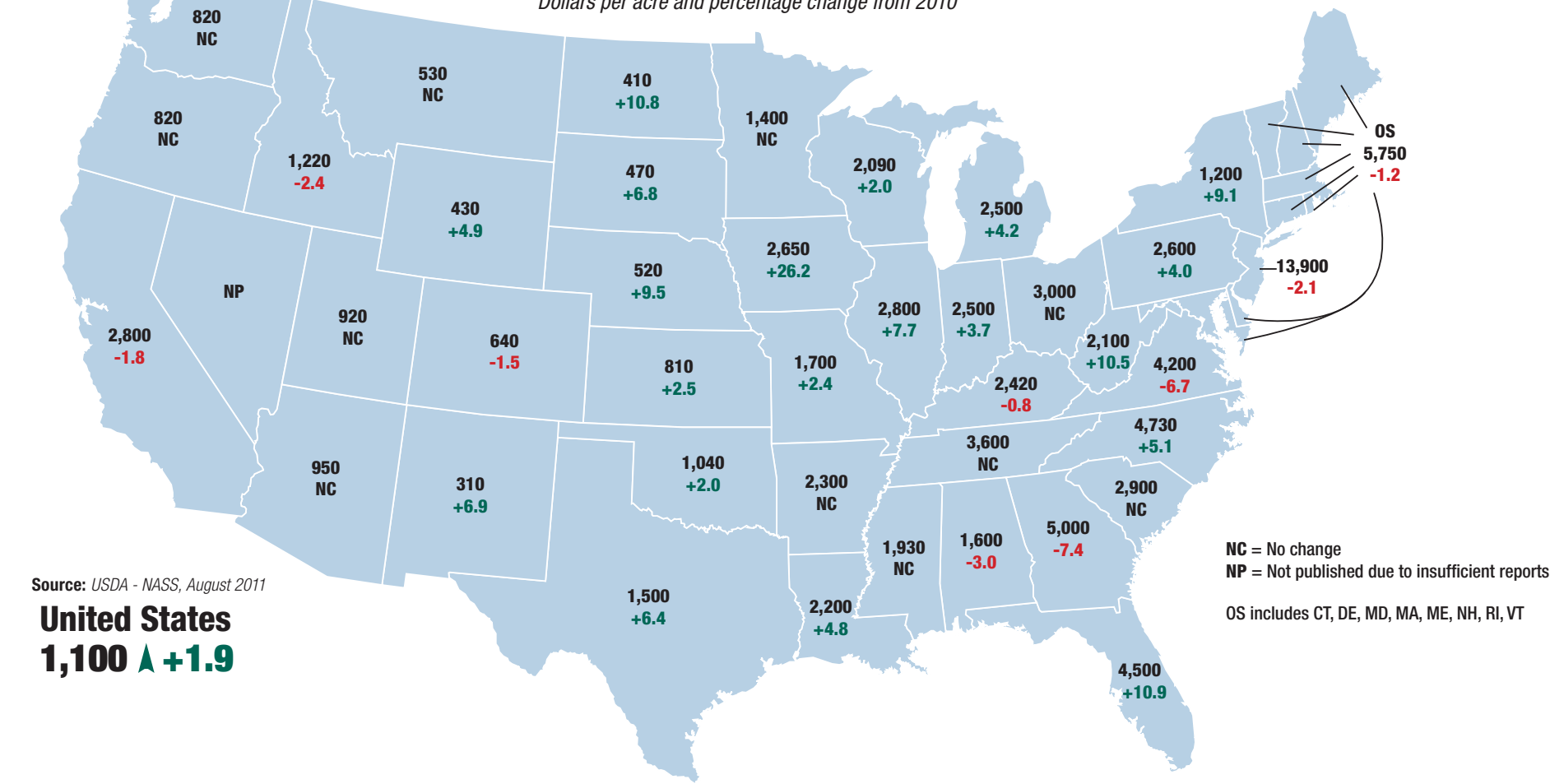


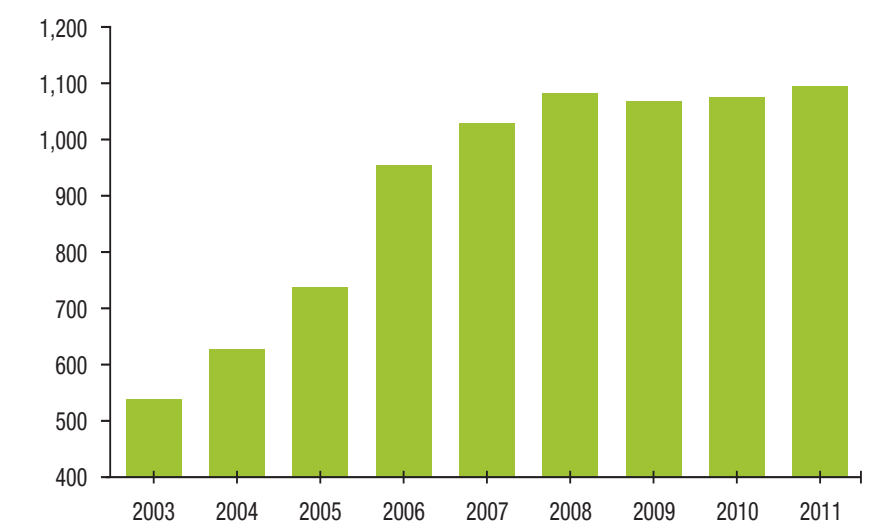
2011 pasture value by state

Dollars per acre and percentage change from 2010



United States

1,100 ▲ +1.9



Source: USDA - NASS, August 2011

Lowest U.S. hay production in last 23 years

As expected, and as reflected by the current high prices for forage, harvested totals for all types hay were down significantly in most areas. Cool, wet spring weather in some states and extended drought in others led to difficult growing conditions and availability is at near record lows.

New data included in our 2011 forage statistics shows pasture values across the country increasing, as fewer acres of viable pasture were available for grazing. This was especially apparent across many of the Southwest and Midwest states.

All hay

Production of dry hay for 2011 is estimated at 131 million tons, down 10 percent from the 2010 total. This is the lowest U.S. production level since 1988. Area harvested is estimated at 55.6 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. The average yield, at 2.36 tons per acre, is down 0.07 ton from the previous year.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures

Production in 2011 is estimated at 65.3 million tons, down 4 percent from 2010. This is the lowest U.S. production level since 1959. Harvested area, at 19.2 million acres, is 4 percent below the previous year. This is the smallest harvested area since 1949. Average yield is estimated at 3.40 tons per acre, unchanged from 2010.

Compared with last year, alfalfa hay harvested area decreased across the majority of the Southwest and central and southern Great Plains due to unusually dry weather during the 2011 growing season. In Oklahoma, harvested area is the smallest since 1930, and production is the lowest since 1925.

Conversely, yields throughout much of the region increased from last year as irrigated hay land made up a larger portion of harvested area.

In areas of the Pacific Northwest, abundant rainfall negatively impacted the quality of some early hay cuttings, but allowed producers to harvest more hay from dryland fields. Elsewhere, excessive moisture throughout the growing season hampered fieldwork in areas of the Ohio Valley, leading to an overall decrease in harvested area.

All other hay

Production in 2011 totaled 65.8 million tons, 15 percent below 2010. This is the lowest U.S. production since 1990. Harvested area, at 36.4 million acres, is down 9 percent from last year, and the smallest acreage since 1998. Average yield is estimated at 1.81 tons per acre, down 0.14 ton from last year.

Unusually dry conditions throughout the central and southern Great Plains and across much of the South during much of the growing season led to decreases in harvested acreage, yield, and production in major producing areas. Oklahoma and Texas were two of the states hit hardest by prolonged dryness, evidenced by the lowest other hay production since 1980 and 1972, respectively. Conversely, abundant late-August and early-September rainfall promoted increased growth in many pastures and grass hay fields from the Northeast to the Mid-Atlantic Coast. As a result, harvested acreage and yields increased in these areas from a year ago.

New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures

Growers seeded 2.32 million acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2011, down 9 percent from 2010. This established a record low for seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures for the U.S. Record lows were also established in Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana,

North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. Record-tying lows were set in Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington.

Corn silage

Corn silage production is estimated at 109 million tons in 2011, up 2 percent from 2010. The U.S. silage yield is estimated at 18.4 tons per acre, down 0.9 ton from 2010. Area harvested for silage is estimated at 5.93 million acres, up 6 percent from a year ago.

Planting got off to a slow start in 2011 due to unfavorable field conditions across much of the major corn-producing region during April. By May 1, only 13 percent of the acreage had been planted, compared with 66 percent planted at the same time last year.

Warm weather and adequate soil moisture levels in many areas provided nearly ideal growing conditions for emerging plants during the first half of June. Wet weather continued across most of the Midwest during the second half of June, maintaining abundant moisture reserves. On the other hand, extremely dry conditions and above-normal temperatures in the central and southern Plains caused severe stress to both irrigated and non-irrigated corn acreage.

Sorghum silage

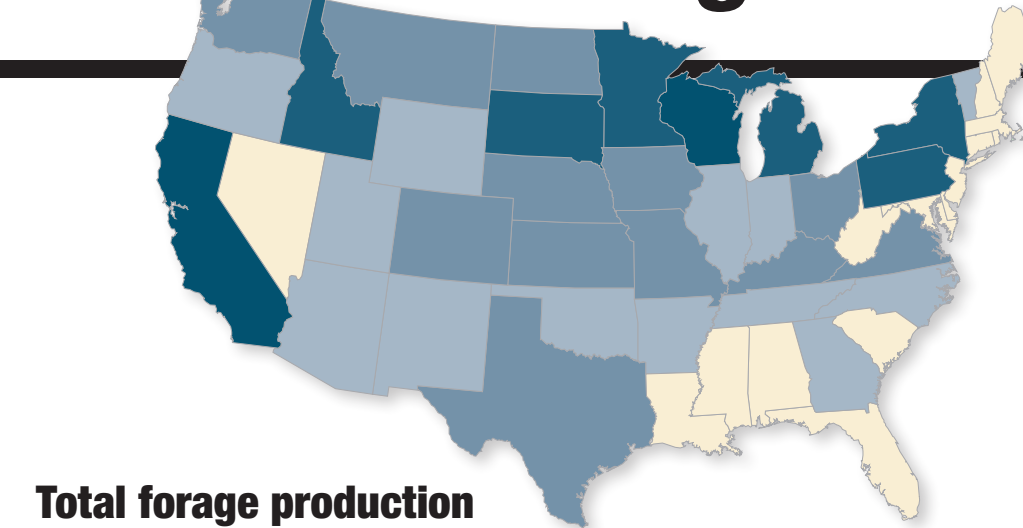
Silage production is estimated at 2.30 million tons, down 32 percent from 2010. Area cut for silage is estimated at 224,000 acres, down 16 percent from the previous year. Silage yields averaged 10.3 tons per acre, down 2.3 tons per acre from 2010. **FG**

Top 15 Corn silage production states

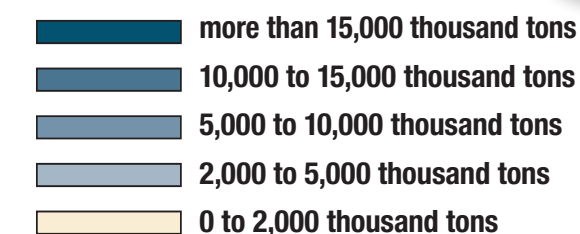
2011 State ranking-production	State	2010 Total corn silage production (in thousand tons)	2011 Total corn silage production (in thousand tons)	Percent change from 2010 to 2011
1	Wisconsin	14,250	15,698	9.22%
2	California	11,263	12,350	8.80%
3	New York	8,645	7,520	-14.96%
4	Pennsylvania	7,200	6,510	-10.60%
5	Minnesota	7,000	6,300	-11.11%
6	Idaho	5,125	6,188	17.18%
7	Michigan	5,365	5,400	0.65%
8	Iowa	5,160	4,100	-25.85%
9	Kansas	1,960	3,850	49.09%
10	South Dakota	3,645	3,100	-17.58%
11	Nebraska	3,330	2,880	-15.63%
12	Illinois	1,980	2,730	27.47%
13	Texas	2,520	2,640	4.55%
14	Ohio	2,380	2,520	5.56%
15	Colorado	2,450	2,415	-1.45%
Total		107,314	108,926	1.48%

Source: Crop Production 2011 Summary Report, USDA, NASS

2011 U.S. forage statistics



Total forage production



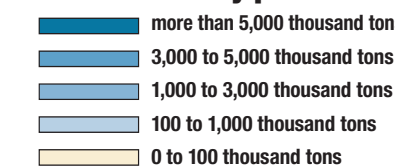
Total forage production is represented by the total of alfalfa, other hay, silage and greenchop production.

Top 15 forage states

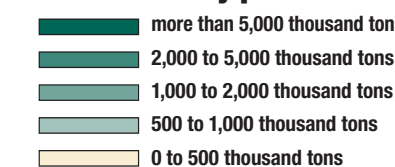
State ranking-production	State	Total forage production (in thousand tons)	Total alfalfa rank	Total alfalfa production (in thousand tons)	Total other hay rank	Total other hay production (in thousand tons)	Total corn silage rank	Total corn silage production (in thousand tons)	Total greenchop rank	Total greenchop production (in thousand tons)
1	Wisconsin	28,919	7	3,220	27	855	1	15,698	1	9,146
2	California	26,966	2	6,072	14	1,836	2	12,350	2	6,708
3	New York	14,316	24	840	13	1,881	3	7,520	3	4,075
4	Minnesota	14,054	5	4,070	20	1,460	5	6,300	4	2,224
5	Idaho	12,432	4	4,300	29	770	6	6,188	7	1,174
6	South Dakota	12,021	1	6,345	9	2,280	10	3,100	15	296
7	Pennsylvania	11,998	20	1,107	8	2,392	4	6,510	5	1,989
8	Michigan	10,013	12	2,240	35	510	7	5,400	6	1,863
9	Nebraska	8,848	8	3,159	6	2,465	11	2,880	14	344
10	Kansas	8,658	15	1,950	7	2,450	9	3,850	13	408
11	Iowa	8,204	10	2,788	31	672	8	4,100	9	644
12	Texas	7,505	27	480	3	3,960	13	2,640	12	425
13	North Dakota	7,474	6	3,643	17	1,581	17	2,250	0	0
14	Missouri	7,290	26	650	1	5,600	26	900	17	140
15	Kentucky	6,602	25	714	2	4,620	22	1,268	0	0
Top 15 Totals		185,300		41,578		33,332		80,954		29,436
U.S. total		272,052		65,332		65,812		108,926		31,982

Source: Crop Production 2011 Summary Report, USDA, NASS; statistical ties are represented by the same numerical ranking.

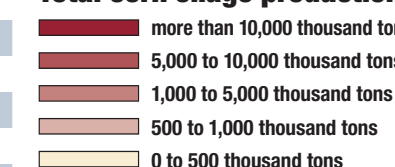
Total alfalfa hay production



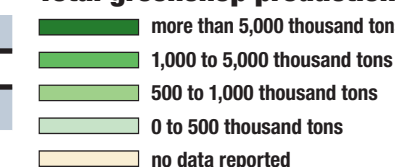
Total other hay production



Total corn silage production



Total greenchop production



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