

# Wheat Harvest is upon us



While farmers are taking to the fields early for the 2012 wheat crop, last Tuesday the USDA forecasted the Kansas crop at 387 million bushels, unchanged from the May estimate, but 40% more than the 2011 crop. If realized, this would be the highest production since 2003. Farmers are expected to harvest an average 43 bushels per acre from 9 million acres in Kansas.

2011 Kansas Department of Agriculture Statistics: Sumner County was the top producing county in the State with 10.5 million bushels. McPherson County was the second leading producer with 8.9 million bushels, followed by Sherman County with 7.4 million bushels, Mitchell County with 7.3 million bushels, and Reno County with 6.7 million bushels.

All wheat (Northwest Kansas)

County and District	Acres Planted for All Purposes	Acres Harvested for Grain	Yield, Bushels per Acre	Production, Bushels
Cheyenne	126,000	118,500	54.0	6,400,000
Decatur	107,000	105,500	47.8	5,045,000
Graham	84,000	79,000	38.5	3,040,000
Norton	93,000	90,500	39.4	3,570,000
Rawlins	140,000	133,500	44.8	5,975,000
Sheridan	83,000	72,000	36.7	2,640,000
Sherman	165,000	155,000	47.5	7,370,000
Thomas	162,000	141,000	44.0	6,210,000
<b>Northwest</b>	<b>960,000</b>	<b>895,000</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>40,250,000</b>

## How harvested wheat is used

50% of America's wheat is exported to various countries  
36% of America's harvested wheat is used in food products  
10% of the wheat is used in livestock feed  
4% is used as seed

Information from: [www.ksheat.com](http://www.ksheat.com)

## Did you know?

Wheat is native to the Middle East

Soybeans are native to China

Sunflowers are native to the North American Great Plains

Corn is native to Central America

Grain sorghum, or milo, is native to Africa

Information from the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Have a safe 2012 Harvest!

### Alternative uses of wheat

The properties that make wheat suitable in food products gluten (protein) and starch also make wheat functional in non-food and industrial applications. Wheat gluten is unique due to its ability to be elastic, bind water and form films that can be stabilized with heat. These properties render wheat gluten useful for the preparations of adhesives, coatings, polymers and resins. Wheat is being utilized in these other products:

1. Packing peanuts
2. Plastic bags
3. Charcoal
4. Fuels
5. Insulation
6. Medical swabs
7. Roofing materials
8. Golf tees
9. Adhesives
10. Paper

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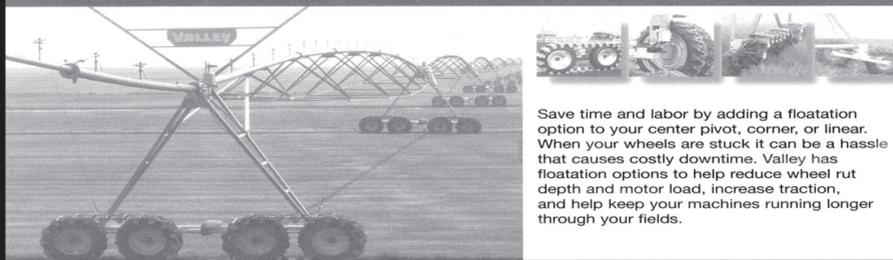


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