

## Crop Production

# Sugarbeets, grain surpass old records after harvesttime 2008

**N**ORMAL 2008 harvest conditions improved yields from 2007 for most crops in Michigan, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Michigan Field Office. Some highlights of the Crop Production Summary are as follows:

■ The corn-for-grain yield, at 138 bushels per acre, was up 15 bushels from 2007. Grain production was 295 million bushels, a new record.

■ Silage yield, at 16.5 tons per acre, was up 2 tons from 2007. Corn-for-grain harvest began the last week of September, later than normal. Combining progressed at the normal rate and was about 95% complete by Dec. 1. Yields varied widely. Dry conditions cut some yields in southern growing areas, while top yields were found in the Thumb area.

■ Soybean yield, at 37 bushels per acre, was down 3 bushels from 2007.

Soybean-harvested acres, at 1.89 million acres, were up 6% from 2007. Production, at 69.9 million bushels, was down 2% from 2007.

■ Michigan's soybean crop was ahead of schedule for all stages of development during September due to favorable weather. Harvest began in some areas as field conditions permitted toward the month's end. Harvest was completed by mid-November.

■ Sugarbeet yield, at 28.7 tons per acre, was a record, exceeding the record of 23.4 set in 2007. Production also set a record at 3.9 million tons.

■ Dry bean production was 3.6 million cwt., 16% higher than 2007. Harvest began the first week of September for early-planted fields, but September rains delayed harvest. By the end of October, most of the harvest was completed.

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