



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
WAP 12-08
December 2008

World Agricultural Production

Argentina Sunflowers: Dry November Weather Limits Planting

The USDA forecasts Argentine sunflowerseed production for 2008/09 at 3.80 million tons, down 0.60 million tons from the October estimate. Area is estimated at 2.20 million hectares, a 12 percent decrease from the previous estimate of 2.50 million hectares. Yield is forecast at 1.73 tons per hectare, compared to the record high 2.11 tons per hectare in 1994/1995 and the five-year average of 1.73 tons per hectare. Hot, dry weather affected much of the Argentine sunflower producing areas during November and reduced planted area. Rainfall was insufficient in southern Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and parts of Entre Rios, Santa Fe, Chaco, and other northern sunflower-producing provinces. The dry weather delayed planting: only 24 and 44 percent, respectively, of the intended planted areas of Tandil and Tres Arroyos in southern Buenos Aires had been sown through November, compared to 57 and 54 percent at the same time last year. Price decreases in sunflowerseed and sunflower oil contributed to a decrease in crush from last year's crop and further discouraged farmers from finishing this year's late plantings. Frost affected some emerged sunflowers near Gral Viamonte, Junin, Chacabuco and Chivilcoy, and the damaged areas are now expected to be replanted to soybeans. High costs for weed and insect

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board

