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**(Neb.)-USDA Says Nebraska Wheat Crop Smallest Since 2002**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/28/2012 11:57 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Authorities say the 2012 Nebraska winter wheat crop is the state's smallest since 2002 and 18 percent under last year's.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture report released Friday says the final crop total is 53.3 million bushels grown on 1.3 million acres. That's 150,000 fewer acres than 2011.

The yield averaged 41 bushels an acre, 4 bushels below last year and the lowest figure since 2006.

The USDA says oat production totaled just 1 million bushels, 21 percent below last year and the smallest crop since 1868.

Eighteen thousand acres were harvested for grain, down 2,000 acres from a year ago.

The yield averaged 57 bushels an acre, down 8 bushels from 2011.