



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
WAP 03-09
March 2009

World Agricultural Production

Argentina Soybeans: Rain Improves Crop Conditions But Could Complicate Harvest

The USDA forecasts Argentine soybean production for 2008/09 at 43.0 million tons, down 0.8 million tons, a 2 percent reduction from last month's 43.8 million tons. Area is estimated at 17.2 million hectares, a 2 percent decrease under last month's 17.5 million hectares. Yield is forecast at 2.50 tons per hectare, the same as last month, compared to the record high 2.99 tons per hectare in 2006/07 and the 5-year average of 2.70 tons per hectare.

Hot, dry weather has had detrimental effects on pod number, seeds per pod and viability of crop. Difficult weather has resulted in variable plant stands and crop heights, which will make harvest more difficult. Erratic rains have generally not replenished soil moisture reserves, particularly in southern Buenos Aires and La Pampa, and may further limit plant production potential.

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board

