

# Grain & Seed News

A Newsletter for the Grain & Seed Industry • Number 15

## Rodent Control

*Mice are the second most successful mammal on the planet.*

Rodents living under grain bin floors and in warehouses are looking for food and harborage. A warehouse with bagged seed or processed food is ideal for the survival and population growth of the second most successful mammal on this planet. Man is the most successful.



*The Deer Mouse is a deceptively cute animal with big eyes and ears that can be deadly.*

Damage caused by rodents comes in various forms. Mice can chew the bags or packaging material to use for nesting material. Mice leave many unsightly fecal pellets on clean bags. They urinate thousands of times a day leaving a faint yellow stain on the bags causing a distinct pungent odor in the warehouse and under the floor of a grain bin. This odor is often detected by the customer.

Some rodents can cause health problems. Hantavirus has caused deaths in the United States. Hantavirus is carried by the deer mouse which is common in the Midwest. Rats can carry fleas that cause diseases like the Black Plague.

Million of dollars in lost seed and grain are caused by mice every year. The reputation of a company can be judged on the number of customer complaints received from cut bags, urine stained bags, or a nest of mice found nestled in a pallet of seed. Customer complaints caused by mice are more plentiful than complaints from insects.

*To reserve a date for your rodent control fumigation this summer, call 1.800.992.1991*



### Mission Statement

In all, our aim is to offer quality service, provide the absolute best products available worldwide, to be a respected world-class organization, and maintain profitability with innovation, alternatives, and education.

**Control:** FSS fumigates seed warehouses with ProFume™ to control rodents. This non corrosive fumigant is cost effective and deadly to rodents and insects. FSS also provides rodent control products like rodenticides, indoor and outdoor bait stations, and the technical support to help you start an effective pest management program.

*Supporting the Grain, Seed, Milling, and Popcorn Associations*



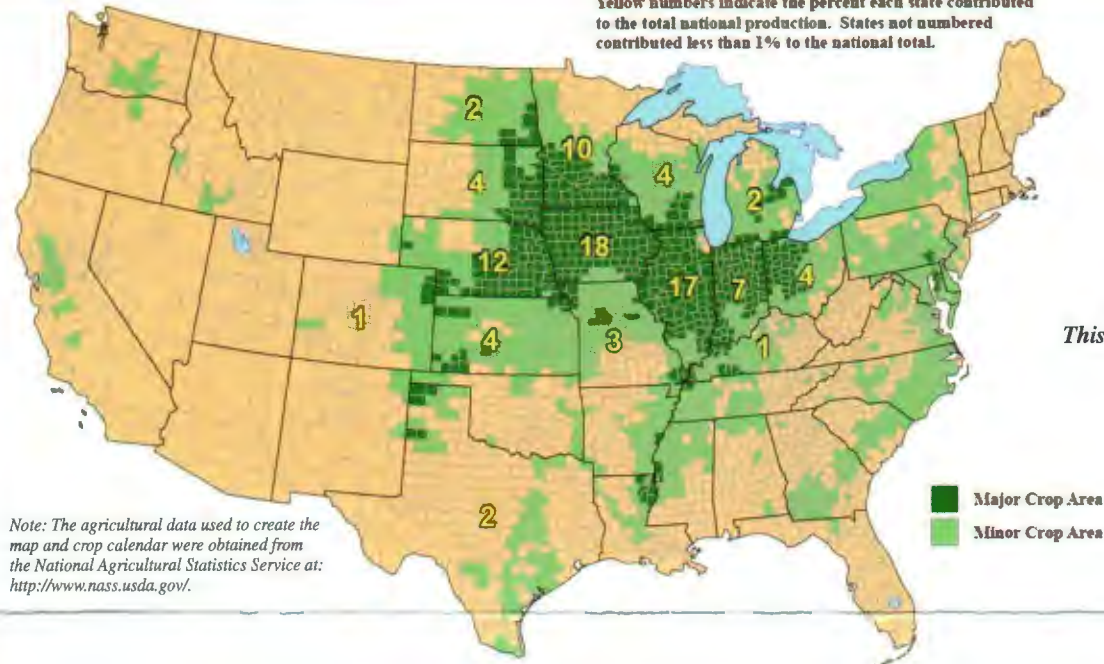


# What Percentage of Corn and Wheat is Grown in Your State?

## United States: Corn

USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments  
World Agricultural Outlook Board

Yellow numbers indicate the percent each state contributed to the total national production. States not numbered contributed less than 1% to the national total.



Forecast for 2013:  
97 million acres of corn.  
This is near a 75-year record.

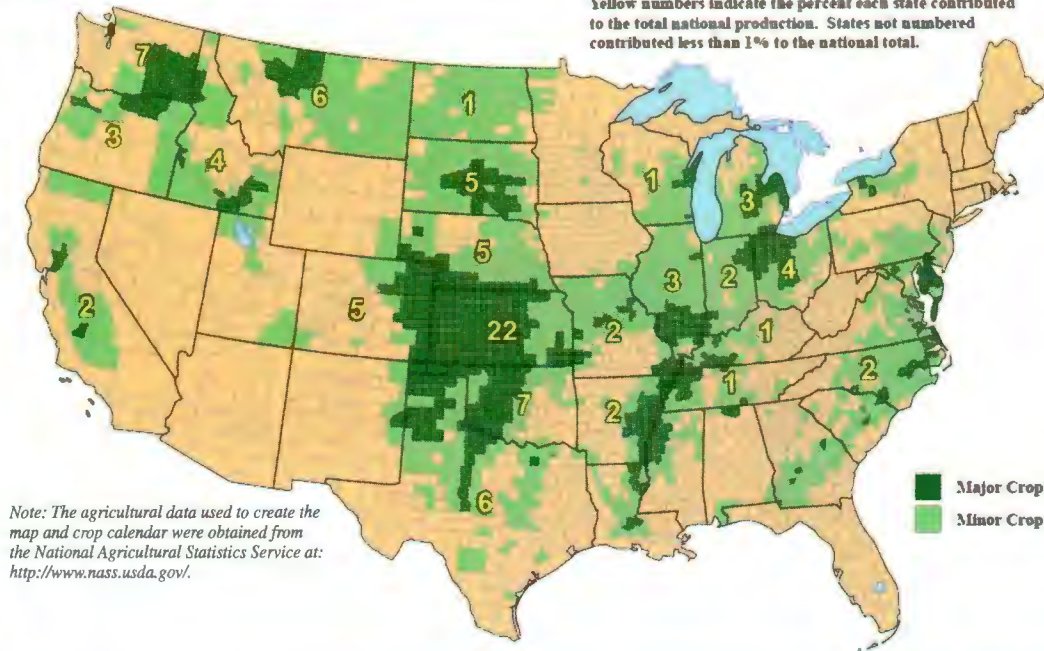
Note: The agricultural data used to create the map and crop calendar were obtained from the National Agricultural Statistics Service at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>.

Major Crop Area  
Minor Crop Area

## United States: Winter Wheat

USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments  
World Agricultural Outlook Board

Yellow numbers indicate the percent each state contributed to the total national production. States not numbered contributed less than 1% to the national total.



Forecast for 2013:  
57 million acres of wheat,  
a bit up from 2012. More  
land available. The acreage  
in the CRP is 4.1 million less  
than in 2011...crops will be  
seeded on a lot of that land.

(March 22, Kiplinger  
Agriculture Letter)

Note: The agricultural data used to create the map and crop calendar were obtained from the National Agricultural Statistics Service at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>.

Major Crop Area  
Minor Crop Area

# Flowing Grain Hazards

*Eric Whitlow*  
Area Manager

Flowing grain can present potentially deadly hazards. It is sometimes an afterthought of the tremendous power that can exist within a moving mass of grain. Researchers at Purdue University have studied grain entrapment and engulfment since 1978 and found that more of these incidents occurred in 2010 than any other time since they began collecting data.

One specific accident took place when a worker was

caught in a discharge auger while cleaning out a bin. The grain company was cited for forty-six safety and health violations including failure to comply with lockout procedures and failure to provide a proper confined space entry permit. Fines amounted to nearly five hundred thousand dollars, not to mention national media attention. Grain entrapment is the fourth leading cause of all agricultural related deaths and most often occur when common safety procedures

are not implemented. Continual evolution of our occupational safety standards can greatly reduce the risk of such tragedies.

While data has shown a sharp decline in grain entrapment deaths in 2011, facilities must maintain a

heightened sense of awareness of the dangers of entrapment in flowing grain.



**In the event of a flowing grain entrapment or engulfment, the following steps should be taken:**

- Shut off all unloading equipment
- Call 911 or emergency rescue services
- Prevent anyone from entering scene until properly trained emergency responders arrive. This step is crucial because a large percentage of entrapments occur when an untrained person enters a grain mass in an attempt to rescue a trapped individual.
- Turn on any aeration fans in order to help the entrapped person breathe.
- Next, assemble any equipment which may be used to assist rescue efforts such as front end loaders, shovels, plywood, portable augers, ropes, etc..

**It is important to always be proactive, as opposed to being reactive concerning potentially disastrous situations while storing, conditioning, or transferring stored grain.**

— E.whitlow@fumigationzone.com

**FSS specializes in safe and effective fumigations. We currently have an experience MOD workers comp rating of 0.74. Our last onsite lost time accident was in 1993, 20 years ago. FSS has an in-house safety coordinator who oversees our fumigations, training, licensing, and critical documentation procedure. We have a veteran technical director that can answer your questions. Contact us at 1.317.896.9300 or [www.fumigationzone.com](http://www.fumigationzone.com).**

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# We Fear No Weevil



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## Contact a fumigation specialist in your area

Custom grain & seed fumigation • Experience in stored product pests • Grain protectants  
New temperature management techniques • Phosphine resistance testing

**1-800-992-1991**    **www.FumigationZone.com**

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