



Press release

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Arable crops up

Many arable crops were larger in 2002 than in 2001, when they were on the small side because of bad weather conditions. In 2002, 7.4 billion kilos of potatoes were lifted, a normal crop compared with the last five years, but an increase of 5 percent on 2001. There were also more onions in 2002 than in the previous year, although this had more to do with a larger area on which they were grown. Cereals were at the same level as in 2001, while sugar beet was up, according to statistics Netherlands crop estimates.

More potatoes and onions

The potato crop was 5 percent higher than in 2001. At 45 kilos per hectare the yield was average compared with the period 1997-2001, and slightly higher than in 2001.

The area used for potato cultivation has increased to 164 thousand hectares. More potatoes were lifted from clay soil in particular, although significantly more potatoes were also grown on sandy and peaty soil in 2002 than in the previous year.

In 2002 the area of sown onions also increased and was the largest ever since the surveys started in 1900. The yield per hectare rose slightly from 2001 and the total gross crop was 7 percent higher at 820 million kilos.

More winter wheat

The total cereal crop was 1.4 billion kilos. The area used for cereals was slightly larger, while total cereal production was around the same, because of a lower yield per hectare. The expansion of the area used to grow cereals was nearly all used for winter wheat, which accounted for a total 110 thousand hectares in 2002. The yield rose by 16 percent, a result of an 18 percent increase in area and a 2 percent decrease in the yield per hectare. The total crop of summer barley fell by one fifth to 300 million kilos.

According to Statistics Netherlands' figures, the area of sugar beet was the same in 2002 as in 2001. Production rose by 5 percent, bringing the total crop to just over 6 billion kilos. In 2002 the yield per hectare was 5 percent higher than in 2001.

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