

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin's Vegetable Forecast Shows Increase in Corn, Snap Bean Production

The 2016 production of sweet corn and snap beans is forecast to increase in Wisconsin when compared with the previous year according to the Midwest Food Processors Association ([MWFPA](#)). The projection comes as part of a report released by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistical Service.

A two percent increase in acreage for contracted snap bean production is forecast at 340,680 tons, up from 329,530 tons last year is reason for the improvement. Should the forecast hold up, the result will be the largest snap bean crop in Wisconsin since 2009. The Badger State has regularly maintained a number one ranking nationally in the production of snap beans processing up to 46 percent of the nation's crop.

Contracted sweet corn for processing production is anticipated to total 517,041 tons, up 5 percent from 2015. The production of sweet corn for processing is heavily concentrated in the upper Midwest. Wisconsin typically ranks third nationally in processing sweet corn. The state's sweet corn industry produces an annual state economic impact of nearly \$130 million when its yearly sweet corn crop is processed.

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Nationally, contracted sweet corn production is forecast at 2.56 million tons, up 7 percent from last year. Contracted snap bean production, at 748,280 tons, is predicted to increase 1 percent.

Wisconsin places perennially among the top five states in growing and processing such crops as potatoes, sweet corn, peas, snap beans, carrots, cucumbers and cabbage for kraut,” said Nick George, president of MWFPA.

Wisconsin is a major food processor hosting companies possessing national and international name recognition. Wisconsin’s vegetable industry is a major contributor to the state’s \$6.3 billion specialty crop industry and employs over 35,000 Wisconsin residents.

“The Wisconsin vegetable industry provides millions of servings of food for people around the world and generates employment and income for many people in the Midwest,” added George. “Crop production and processing industries are often overlooked by the general public, and many people don’t realize that Wisconsin and the Midwest are leaders in the industry.”

George sees the key to vegetable production in Wisconsin as being the efficient use of water allowing vegetable growers to produce food for the rest of the country with a much smaller carbon footprint than would otherwise be possible. Irrigated production, particularly in Central Wisconsin, is the cornerstone of the vegetable industry according to George.