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USDA: Despite Late Start, Record Corn Crop Likely

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - The wet start to the corn planting season may reduce the amount each acre produces this year, but farmers are planting so much corn they're still likely to bring in a record crop.

In a report released Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated farmers would bring in 14.1 billion bushels of corn this year, a billion bushels more than the previous record set in 2009.

The USDA expects farmers to grow an average of 158 bushels per acre, a 3.4 percent reduction from the 163.6 bushels predicted in February. The downward adjustment is due to delayed planting caused by a cold, wet spring.

Farmers are planting more than 97 million acres of corn, the most since 1936. That's why even an average yield would result in a record crop.

Associated Press