



News Release

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CROP PRODUCTION INCREASES IN KENTUCKY

Kentucky's 2011 crop production climbed from 2010 levels for corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay and dark tobacco according to the Kentucky Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Despite storms causing flooding early in the growing season and the usual July and August heat, crop yields increased. Most areas of the state received adequate moisture with some areas receiving record high rainfall totals in 2011.

Corn for grain production by **Kentucky** farmers was estimated at 180.7 million bushels, up 18 percent from the 2010 crop. Yield was estimated at 139 bushels per acre, up 15 bushels from last year. Acreage harvested for grain was estimated at 1.30 million acres, up 70,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** corn for grain production was estimated at 12.4 billion bushels, up slightly from the November 1 forecast but 1 percent below 2010. The average yield was estimated at 147.2 bushels per acre. This was up 0.5 bushel from the November forecast but 5.6 bushels below the 2010 average yield of 152.8 bushels.

Kentucky soybean production was estimated at 57.7 million bushels, 22 percent above the 2010 crop. Harvested acreage increased 6 percent and yield rose 5 bushels from 2010. Yield was estimated at 39 bushels per acre, while acreage harvested for beans was estimated at 1.48 million acres. **U.S.** soybean production in 2011 totaled 3.06 billion bushels, up slightly from the November 1 forecast but down 8 percent from 2010. Production was the sixth largest on record. The average yield per acre was estimated at 41.5 bushels, 0.2 bushel above the November 1 forecast but 2.0 bushels below last year's yield.

Kentucky burley tobacco production was estimated at 128 million pounds, down 9 percent from the 2010 crop. Yield was estimated at 2,000 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from the previous year. Harvested acreage was estimated at 64,000 acres, 8,000 acres below the previous year. Production in the **burley producing states** totaled 172 million pounds, 8 percent below last year. Kentucky produced 74 percent of the U.S. production. Yields averaged 1,938 pounds per acre, 16 pounds above a year ago.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco totaled 30.9 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production was 13.2 million pounds, 7 percent above the 2010 crop of 12.3 million pounds. Dark tobacco acreage increased 2 percent from 2010.

Kentucky alfalfa hay production was estimated at 714,000 tons, up 11 percent from a year earlier. **Other hay** production was estimated at 4.62 million tons, 9 percent below the 2010 level. Combined acreage cut for hay totaled 2.31 million acres. Adequate moisture for most of the year promoted good yields for most of the season, but putting up good quality dry hay was a challenge.

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