



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE  
50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY SUITE 202  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 12, 2007

Contact: Barbara Rater  
(410) 841-5740

## Producers Remain Pessimistic About 2007 Corn and Soybean Crops

According to the results of a survey released today by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, corn and soybean crops in Maryland and Delaware are still expected to yield far below normal this year. Although rain fell in most areas of the region in mid-August, it was not enough to improve the outlook for the 2007 crop. Expected yields for summer potatoes in Maryland are lower than last year. Delaware potatoes growers expect yields to increase from 2006.

**Maryland:** Corn producers now report that they expect to harvest an average 85 bushels per acre of corn this year, down 5 bushels per acre from the August estimate, and 57 bushels below last year's average yield. This is the lowest yield since the drought of 2002, when growers reported an average 74 bushels per acre. Assuming that 470,000 acres will be harvested as now indicated, production is expected to plummet 34 percent, from 60.4 million bushels harvested last year to 40.0 million bushels this year. This is in spite of the fact that harvested acreage increased 10 percent this year, from 425,000 acres to 470,000 acres. Soybeans are expected to yield 25 bushels per acre this year, unchanged from the August estimate. This is down 26 percent from 34 bushels per acre in 2006. Assuming producers harvest 420,000 acres as now reported, total production is estimated at 10.5 million bushels this year. This compares with 15.8 million bushels in 2006, when producers harvested 465,000 acres of soybeans. The 34 percent drop in production is a result of both reduced yield and acreage. Potato growers expect to harvest 900,000 hundredweight (cwt.) in 2007, down from 928,000 in 2006. Average yield is forecast at 300 cwt. per acre, down 20 cwt. from last year. Harvested acreage for 2007 is 3,000 acres, down 3 percent from 2006.

**Delaware:** Estimates for yields of corn and soybeans in Delaware are unchanged from the August forecast. Corn is expected to yield 80 bushels per acre this year, down 45 percent from an average 145 bushels per acre harvested last year. This is the lowest since 2002, when yield was 84 bushels per acre. Assuming 175,000 acres will be harvested as currently estimated, production is expected to be 14 million bushels. This is down 40 percent from last year, despite an increase in acres harvested. Growers are expecting soybean yields to be down 23 percent for 2007, to an average 24 bushels per acre. This is the lowest since 1995 when the average yield was 20 bushels per acre. Total soybean production is estimated at 3.7 million bushels, as compared with 5.5 million bushels produced last year. The 32 percent drop in production from 2006 is due to both lower yields and acreage. Producers are expected to harvest 155,000 acres of soybeans in 2007, as compared with 177,000 acres in 2006. Potato growers expect to harvest 520,000 cwt. in 2007, up from 504,000 cwt. in 2006. Average yield for 2007, at 260 cwt per acre, is up 20 cwt from 2006. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 2,000 acres, down 5 percent from 2006.

**United States:** Corn production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 26 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 155.8 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from August and 6.7 bushels above last year. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record, behind the 160.4 bushel yield in 2004. Production would be the largest on record as growers expect to harvest the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Expected yields are higher than last month across the northern and central Great Plains and Corn Belt where heavy rainfall during the month provided much-needed moisture for the crop. Yield forecasts in the southern Great Plains and Delta are also higher than last month as early harvest results are better than anticipated. Yields are unchanged or lower than August across much of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.62 billion bushels, down slightly from the August forecast and down 18 percent from last year's record high. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month and down 1.3 bushels from last year. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower across the central Corn Belt, the Tennessee Valley, and the Southeast. Hot, dry conditions contributed to most of the decline, especially in Kentucky and Tennessee, down 8 bushels and 9 bushels from last month, respectively. However, yields increased from the August 1 forecast in the northern Great Plains and northwestern Corn Belt, as beneficial rains fell during the month of August.

**ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2006 AND 2007**

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Planted</i>		<i>Harvested</i>		<i>Average Yield</i>		<i>Production</i>	
		<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
<b><i>Maryland</i></b>		<b><i>1,000 Acres</i></b>				<b><i>1,000</i></b>			
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	490	540	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	425	470	142	85	60,350	39,950
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	60	----	17	----	1,020	----
Soybeans	BU	470	430	465	420	34	25	15,810	10,500
Wheat, Winter	BU	210	225	125	175	68	64	8,500	11,200
Barley	BU	50	45	32	34	87	83	2,784	2,822
Hay, All	TON	----	----	205	210	2.78	----	569	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	40	40	3.90	----	156	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	165	170	2.50	----	413	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	34,000	33,000
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.7	3.4
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	320	300	928	900
<b><i>Delaware</i></b>									
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	170	185	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	161	175	145	80	23,345	14,000
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	8	----	20	----	160	----
Soybeans	BU	180	160	177	155	31	24	5,487	3,720
Wheat, Winter	BU	48	57	45	55	67	65	3,015	3,575
Barley	BU	27	23	24	20	80	82	1,920	1,640
Hay, All	TON	----	----	14	15	2.86	----	40	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	5	5	3.90	----	20	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	9	10	2.20	----	20	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	240	260	504	520
<b><i>United States</i></b>									
						<b><i>1,000,000</i></b>			
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	78,327	92,888	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	70,648	85,418	149	156	10,535	13,308
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,477	----	16	----	105	----
Soybeans	BU	75,522	64,081	74,602	63,265	43	41	3,188	2,619
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,575	45,136	31,117	37,188	42	41	1,298	1,537
Barley	BU	3,452	4,044	2,951	3,542	61	63	180	223
All Hay	TON	----	----	60,807	61,789	2.33	2.35	142	145
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,384	21,451	3.35	3.26	72	70
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,423	40,338	1.78	1.87	70	75
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,932	9,285
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.01	1.03
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	58.0	53.9	53.9	50.3	337	328	18.2	16.5

<sup>1</sup> Acres planted for all purposes.