



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Revises 2007 Forecast for Corn and Soybean Production

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), has revised their forecast for the 2007 corn and soybean harvest. While the forecast for corn production in Maryland remains unchanged at 40.0 million bushels, Delaware growers are now expected to produce 14.9 million bushels of corn, up 6 percent from last month's projected production of 14.0 million bushels. The forecast for soybeans is lower in both states, with 9.8 million bushels expected to be produced in Maryland and 3.2 million bushels expected in Delaware. At the time of the survey, about half of the corn crop was harvested and producers were preparing for the soybean harvest.

Maryland: Grain producers are expected to harvest 40.0 million bushels of corn in Maryland this year. Growers planted 540,000 acres of corn, up 10 percent from 2006, and expect to harvest 470,000 acres for grain. This will bring an average yield of 85 bushels per acre, down 40 percent from last year's average yield of 142 bushels per acre. These estimates are unchanged from last month. Soybean fields are expected to produce 9.8 million bushels statewide, an average of 25 bushels per acre. A total of 390,000 acres of soybeans will be harvested from 400,000 acres planted. Acreage estimates were revised from September's estimate of 430,000 acres planted and 420,000 acres harvested. This is a 15 percent decline from last year in the number of soybean acres planted. The yield estimate remains unchanged from last month.

Delaware: Corn growers are now expected to harvest 14.9 million bushels of corn in Delaware this year, up 6 percent from the September forecast. Producers reported higher yields during the October survey, an average of 85 bushels per acre. This compares to 80 bushels per acre reported last month. The corn planted acreage has been revised to 195,000 acres. However, acres harvested for grain remains unchanged at 175,000 acres. Growers are expected to chop more fields for silage or abandon them altogether, due to low yields. The forecast for Delaware soybeans is now 3.2 million bushels, down 14 percent from the September estimate. This is due to revisions to acres planted and harvested as well as a drop in reported yields. The number of acres of soybeans planted in Delaware is now estimated to be 150,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last month's estimate. Of these, 145,000 acres are expected to be harvested for grain at an average yield of 22 bushels per acre.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and 26 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 154.7 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from September but 5.6 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. Forecast yields are higher than last year across the Great Plains, central Corn Belt and Delta where adequate rainfall during much of the season provided favorable growing conditions. Expected yields across the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, Northeast, and mid-Atlantic States are down from last year as drought conditions during much of the growing season reduced soil moisture levels and stressed the crop.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.60 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast and down 19 percent from last year's record high. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but down 1.3 bushels from last year. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and most of the Atlantic Coast States. Hot, dry conditions continued to cause most of the decline, especially in Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, and the Carolinas, all down at least 2 bushels from last month. Yields increased from the September 1 forecast in Iowa, Ohio, New York, the Dakotas, and most of the Gulf Coast States.

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>
<i>Maryland</i>		<i>1,000 Acres</i>				<i>1,000</i>			
Corn ¹	ACR	490	540	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	425	470	142	85	60,350	39,950
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	60	----	17	----	1,020	----
Soybeans	BU	470	400	465	390	34	25	15,810	9,750
Wheat, Winter	BU	210	220	125	170	68	68	8,500	11,560
Barley	BU	50	45	32	34	87	84	2,784	2,856
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
<i>Delaware</i>									
Corn ¹	ACR	170	195	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	161	175	145	85	23,345	14,875
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	8	----	20	----	160	----
Soybeans	BU	180	150	177	145	31	22	5,487	3,190
Wheat, Winter	BU	48	57	45	55	67	68	3,015	3,740
Barley	BU	27	21	24	19	80	78	1,920	1,482
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
<i>United States</i>								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	78,327	93,616	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	70,648	86,071	149	155	10,535	13,318
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,477	----	16	----	105	----
Soybeans	BU	75,522	63,669	74,602	62,818	43	41	3,188	2,598
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,575	44,987	31,117	35,952	42	42	1,298	1,516
Barley	BU	3,452	4,020	2,951	3,508	61	60	180	212
All Hay	TON	----	----	60,807	61,789	2.33	2.39	142	148
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,384	21,451	3.35	3.37	72	72
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,423	40,338	1.78	1.87	70	76
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,932	9,255
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.01	1.03
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	58.0	53.8	53.9	50.3	337	328	18.2	16.5

¹ Acres planted for all purposes.