



NEWS RELEASE

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



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Contact: Barbara Rater
(410) 841-5740

Crop Production – August 2008 Maryland and Delaware Highlights

Results of the August Agricultural Yield Survey released Tuesday by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service reveal that grain producers are expecting good yields for this year's corn and soybean crops. This follows an excellent small grain harvest. However, rainfall has been variable across the area this summer, and lack of rain in some areas may impact production.

Maryland: Maryland farmers project a yield of 130 bushels per acre for their corn crop this year, up 27 bushels per acre from last year and one bushel below the five-year average. If realized, this will result in total production of 53.3 million bushels of corn on the 410,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain. Farmers also expect to harvest 460,000 acres of soybeans at an average yield of 34 bushels per acre. This compares with last year's average yield of 27 bushels per acre and the five-year average yield of 35 bushels per acre. If realized, a total of 15.6 million bushels of soybeans are expected to be produced in Maryland in 2008. The small grain harvest is projected to be the best on record. Maryland farmers are expected to harvest an estimated 16.6 million bushels of wheat this year, the largest wheat crop on record. Wheat fields have yielded on average 77 bushels per acre, besting the previous record yield of 68 bushels per acre set in 1997. Barley fields have also yielded a record 90 bushels per acre, as compared with the previous record of 87 bushels per acre set in 2006. Total barley production is estimated at 4.1 million bushels. Final estimates for Maryland small grain production will be released on September 30. The 2008 apple production in Maryland is forecast at 26 million pounds, down 21 percent from last year. Maryland orchards continue to be impacted by 2007's drought-stricken growing season.

Delaware: Dry weather is moderating expectations for corn and soybean crops in Delaware. Farmers here report that they expect corn fields to produce an average 125 bushels per acre in 2008, up 28 bushels per acre from last year, but below the five-year average of 132 bushels per acre. With 152,000 acres expected to be harvested, total corn production is estimated at 19.0 million bushels. Soybeans are expected to yield 33 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels per acre from 2007, but below the five-year average of 32 bushels per acre. Soybeans are expected to be harvested from 182,000 acres, for a total production of 6.0 million bushels. Small grain yields are projected to be the best on record. Delaware farmers are expected to harvest a record 5.9 million bushels of wheat in 2008, compared with 3.7 million bushels harvested last year and the previous record production of 5.3 million bushels set in 1997. Wheat fields have yielded an average 76 bushels per acre, a record yield. A record high barley yield of 90 bushels per acre is also expected this year, one bushel over the previous record set in 1997. Total barley production is at estimated at 2.0 million bushels, as compared with 1.5 million bushels produced in 2007. Final estimates for Delaware small grain production will be released on September 30.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent from last year but 17 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 155.0 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels from last year. If realized, this yield would be the second highest on record, behind 2004. Production would be the second highest on record, behind last year when producers harvested the most acres of corn for grain since 1933. Forecasted yields are higher than last year in the northern and eastern Corn Belt, Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, and northern half of the Atlantic Coast where frequent precipitation this year contrasted with extremely dry weather last year. Expected yields across the southern half of the Great Plains and the Carolinas are below last year due to drought-like conditions throughout much of the growing season. Growers expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, up 350,000 acres from June but 8 percent lower than last year.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 15 percent from last year but down 7 percent from the record high production of 2006. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.5 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from 2007. Compared with last year, yields are forecast lower in Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Texas, and across the northern and central Great Plains. In contrast, yield prospects are forecast higher than last year or unchanged across the remainder of the country, with the largest increases in Kentucky and Tennessee, up 13 and 12 bushels from last year, respectively. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 73.3 million acres, up 2 percent from June and up 17 percent from 2007.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2007 AND 2008

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>				<i>1,000</i>			
Corn ¹	ACR	540	480	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	455	410	103	130	46,865	53,300
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	75	----	12	----	900	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	400	470	380	460	27	34	10,260	15,640
Wheat, Winter	BU	220	255	170	215	68	77	11,560	16,555
Barley ¹	BU	45	50	34	45	84	90	2,856	4,050
Hay, All	TON	----	----	215	205	2.15	----	462	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	40	45	2.80	----	112	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	175	160	2.00	----	350	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	33,000	26,000
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.3	4.3
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.7	320	290	960	783
Delaware									
Corn ¹	ACR	195	160	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	185	152	97	125	17,945	19,000
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	7	----	10	----	70	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	150	185	145	182	24	33	3,480	6,006
Wheat, Winter	BU	57	80	55	78	68	76	3,740	5,928
Barley ¹	BU	21	25	19	22	78	90	1,482	1,980
Hay, All	TON	----	----	15	15	1.93	----	29	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	5	5	2.20	----	11	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	10	10	1.8	----	18	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	270	250	540	475
United States								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	93,600	86,977	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	86,542	79,290	151	155	13,074	12,288
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,071	----	18	----	106	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	63,631	74,783	62,820	73,341	41	41	2,585	2,973
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,987	46,605	35,952	40,252	42	47	1,516	1,875
Barley ¹	BU	4,020	4,130	3,508	3,640	60	60	212	218
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,625	60,439	2.44	2.45	150	148
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,670	20,778	3.35	3.41	73	71
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,955	39,661	1.95	1.94	78	77
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,114	9,165
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.13	1.10
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.7	48.0	51.3	45.5	332	321	17.0	14.6

¹ Acres planted for all purposes.

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Maryland Field Office
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 202
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