



National Agricultural
Statistics Service

News Release

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September Rain Benefits Late Soybean Crop

The rain that fell in September was a boost to the soybean crop. According to a survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and based on October 1 crop conditions, soybean fields in Maryland and Delaware are expected to yield an average of two bushels per acre more than forecast last month.

Maryland: Maryland farmers are now expecting an average yield of 35 bushels per acre for their soybeans, up two bushels from the September forecast. USDA also revised the number of soybean acres planted from 450,000 acres to 470,000 acres. With 460,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain, total soybean production is now forecast at 16.1 million bushels, slightly above the 16.0 million bushels harvested last year. Corn acreage and yield have also been revised. Cropland planted in corn has been revised from 480,000 acres to 490,000 acres and corn yield is now forecast at 140 bushels per acre. With 415,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain, corn production is forecast at 58.1 bushels, up 8 percent from 2005. As of October 1, soybean harvest had just begun and about half of the corn harvest was complete.

Delaware: Soybean yield is now forecast at 30 bushels per acre, up two bushels per acre from the September 1 estimate. With 178,000 acres of soybeans expected to be harvested, this brings total expected production to 5.3 million bushels. This is 13 percent above last year's production of 4.7 million bushels when the average yield was 26 bushels per acre. USDA has revised the number of acres planted in corn from 165,000 acres to 170,000 acres. Of this, 160,000 acres is expected to be harvested for grain, for a total production of 23.2 million bushels. This is 5 percent more than the 22.0 million bushels of corn harvested in 2005. At the time of the survey, soybean harvest had just begun and corn harvest was 54 percent complete.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, down 2 percent from both last month and 2005. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 153.5 bushels per acre, down 1.2 bushels from September but 5.6 bushels higher than last year. If realized, the yield would be the second largest on record, behind 2004. Forecast yields are lower than September across the central Corn Belt as early harvest results revealed that the hot, dry summer conditions had reduced yield potential more than anticipated. However, producers in the northern and eastern Corn Belt reported better than expected yields due mainly to timely rainfall during the growing season. Expected yields across the northern and southern Great Plains are unchanged from last month. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States bringing total corn planted acres to 78.6 million acres, down 1 percent from June and 4 percent lower than 2005. Area harvested and to be harvested for grain, at 71.0 million acres, is down 1 percent from September and 5 percent below 2005.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.19 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the September forecast and up 4 percent from the 2005 crop. If realized, this would be the highest production on record. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.8 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from September but down 0.2 bushel from last year's record high yield. Compared with last month, yield forecasts are unchanged or higher in all States except South Dakota. The States with the largest expected increase from September are Illinois and Virginia, both up 3.0 bushels from last month. Timely rains and cooler temperatures improved yield expectations in the central and northern Corn Belt. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States with soybean planted area now at 75.6 million acres, up 1 percent from June and up 5 percent from 2005. Expected area for harvest, at 74.5 million acres, is up 1 percent from September and 5 percent above 2005.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2005 AND 2006

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Maryland		1,000 Acres				1,000			
Corn ¹	ACR	470	490	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	400	415	135	140	54,000	58,100
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	65	----	17	----	1,105	----
Soybeans	BU	480	470	470	460	34	35	15,980	16,100
Winter Wheat	BU	155	210	140	125	66	68	9,240	8,500
Barley	BU	46	50	41	32	86	87	3,526	2,784
All Hay	TON	----	----	190	200	2.79	----	531	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	40	40	3.90	----	156	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	150	160	2.50	----	375	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	41,000	38,000
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	4.2	3.8
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.5	4.0	3.4	2.8	260	320	884	896
Delaware		1,000 Acres				1,000			
Corn ¹	ACR	160	170	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	154	160	143	145	22,022	23,200
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	5	----	19	----	95	----
Soybeans	BU	185	180	182	178	26	30	4,732	5,340
Winter Wheat	BU	52	48	51	45	70	67	3,570	3,015
Barley	BU	29	27	27	24	81	80	2,187	1,920
All Hay	TON	----	----	14	13	2.79	----	39	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	5	4	3.60	----	18	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	9	9	2.30	----	21	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.1	260	240	806	504
United States		1,000 Acres				1,000,000			
Corn ¹	ACR	81,759	78,561	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	75,107	71,047	148	154	11,112	10,905
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	5,920	----	18	----	106	----
Soybeans	BU	72,032	75,565	71,251	74,505	43	43	3,063	3,189
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,433	40,575	33,794	31,117	44	42	1,499	1,298
Barley	BU	3,875	3,452	3,269	2,951	65	61	212	180
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,649	62,697	2.44	2.35	151	147
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	22,389	22,407	3.38	3.33	76	75
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,260	40,290	1.91	1.80	75	73
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,865	9,843
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.18	1.05
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.4	59.4	51.4	54.8	342	342	17.6	18.7

¹ Acres planted for all purposes.