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News Release

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2006 Corn and Soybean Yields Expected to Surpass Yields of 2005

The harvest of the 2006 corn and soybean crop is well underway and farmers in Maryland and Delaware expect yields to exceed those of 2005. This is despite a long period of hot, dry weather during the summer months when there was much uncertainty about the crops' potential. However, projected yields for corn and soybeans in 2006 still fall well below the record yields for both crops that were set in 2000. Results of the survey released Thursday by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service are based on November 1 crop conditions. Final crop production estimates for 2006 will be released by USDA in January.

Maryland. Maryland producers are expected to harvest an average 140 bushels per acre of corn in 2006, up 4 percent from last year's average yield of 135 bushels per acre. With 415,000 acres of corn expected to be harvested for grain statewide, total production is forecast at 58.1 million bushels. This is almost 8 percent more than the 54.0 million bushels produced in 2005. Soybean fields are expected to yield an average 35 bushels per acre, as compared with an average 34 bushels per acre last year. With 460,000 acres of soybeans expected to be harvested across the state, production is forecast at 16.1 million bushels, slightly above the 16.0 million bushels harvested last year. At the time of the November 1 survey, 87 percent of the corn crop was harvested and 34 percent of the soybean crop was harvested.

Delaware. Corn production is projected to be up 9 percent in Delaware this year. Growers expect to harvest 24.0 million bushels, compared with 22.0 million bushels harvested last year. Farmers expect to harvest an average 150 bushels per acre on the 160,000 acres they will harvest for grain, as compared with 143 bushels per acre harvested from 154,000 acres in 2005. The soybean crop is also expected to be larger, with an average 31 bushels per acre expected to be harvested from 178,000 acres, as compared with 26 bushels per acre harvested from 182,000 acres in 2005. If realized, the expected production of 5.5 million bushels will be 17 percent greater than the 4.7 million bushels produced in 2005. At the time of the November 1 survey, the corn crop was 93 percent harvested and the soybean crop was 37 percent harvested.

United States. Corn production is forecast at 10.7 billion bushels, down 1 percent from October and 3 percent lower than 2005. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 151.2 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from October but 3.3 bushels higher than last year. If realized, the yield would be the second largest on record, behind 2004. Yield forecasts are lower than last month across much of the western and central Corn Belt and Atlantic Coast States as producers reported that actual harvest yields were not as good as expected earlier due to lower grain weight per ear. Producers in the northern Great Plains, Delta States, and parts of the Southeast reported better than expected yields. Soybean production is forecast at 3.20 billion bushels, up slightly from October and 5 percent above 2005. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 43.0 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from October and equal to last year's record high yield. Producers in the northern Great Lakes States, Delaware, New York, North Carolina, and the Dakotas are realizing higher yields than expected last month, while yield prospects decreased slightly as harvest progressed in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 74.5 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 5 percent from 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									
Corn ¹	ACR	160	170	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	154	160	143	150	22,022	24,000
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	5	----	19	----	95	----
Soybeans	BU	185	180	182	178	26	31	4,732	5,518
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								1,000,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	81,759	78,561	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	75,107	71,047	148	151	11,112	10,745
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	5,920	----	18	----	106	----
Soybeans	BU	72,032	75,565	71,251	74,505	43	43	3,063	3,204
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.