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PRESS RELEASE

January 11, 2008

NEWS

For Immediate Use

Most of New Jersey's Corn Acreage Endures Dry Conditions

New Jersey: The 2007 corn crop is estimated at 10.3 million bushels, 24 percent more than the 2006 crop, because of more harvested acreage. Harvested acreage was estimated at 82 thousand acres, up 28 percent from the 64 thousand acres harvested in 2006. Excellent growing conditions across northern New Jersey offset some of the crop damage due to dry weather across southern New Jersey. Central and northern New Jersey had above-average rainfall during the growing season, but rainfall from March 1 through October 15, 2007, was reported to be from five to seven inches below normal at some southern New Jersey weather stations. The dry weather severely impacted corn yields for many Mid-Atlantic states and the Carolinas. Available irrigation prevented more widespread damage across South Jersey. As the harvest came to a conclusion, producers reported yields that averaged 125 bushels per acre for the state, 4 bushels below the 2006 crop average. This compares with the record high yield of 143 bushels set in 2004, and the 61 bushels in 2002 when the drought was statewide.

United States: Corn for grain production in 2007 is the largest on record, because producers harvested the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Production is estimated at 13.1 billion bushels, 24 percent above 2006. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 151.1 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above the previous year's crop. This yield ranks second behind the 160.4 record yield set in 2004.

New Jersey: Acreage, Yield, and Production of Corn for Grain

Year	Harvested	Yield (Bushels per Acre)	Production (Million Bushels)
2002	70,000	61	4.27
2003	61,000	113	6.89
2004	72,000	143	10.30
2005	62,000	122	7.56
2006	64,000	129	8.26
2007	82,000	125	10.25

Corn Yields: New Jersey and Selected States

State	2006	2007	Change
Delaware	145	97	-48
Maryland	142	103	-39
New Jersey	129	125	-4
New York	129	127	-2
North Carolina	132	100	-32
Pennsylvania	122	128	+6
South Carolina	110	100	-10
Virginia	120	85	-35