



News Release

In Cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Pennsylvania's Crop Production

HARRISBURG, PA, Jan 16, 2007 - - Based on year end acreage and yield data, production of alfalfa dry hay, haylage, and greenchop, other dry hay, oats, winter wheat, barley, sorghum for grain and silage, burley tobacco, and maple syrup in Pennsylvania was above last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Production of soybeans, fall potatoes, Southern Maryland and Pennsylvania seedleaf type tobaccos were below last year's production. Production of corn for grain and silage remained the same.

Corn for grain production totaled 117.1 million bushels, unchanged from last year's production. Corn acres harvested for grain was estimated at 960,000 and the average yield was 122 bushels per acre, unchanged from 2005, but 18 bushels per acre below 2 years ago. Corn for silage production at 6.8 million tons, was unchanged from production in 2005. Acres harvested for silage totaled 380,000, also unchanged from last year. Silage yield was 18.0 tons per acre, unchanged from both the 2005 and 2004 yields.

Alfalfa dry hay production was 1.50 million tons, 13 percent above last year's production. Acres harvested were 500,000, a decrease of 10,000 acres from last year, with an average yield of 3.0 tons per acre. Alfalfa haylage and greenchop production was 2.05 million tons (green weight), 8 percent above last year's production. Acres harvested were 320,000, with an average yield of 6.4 tons per acre, compared to 305,000 acres and a yield of 6.2 tons per acre last year. All alfalfa forage production was 2.51 million tons (dry weight equivalent), 11 percent above last year's production. Alfalfa acres newly seeded in 2006 for crop production in 2007 totaled 110,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from a year ago. All other dry hay acres harvested totaled 1,250,000 acres, 160,000 acres above last year, with a yield of 2.90 tons per acre for a total production of 3.63 million tons, up 75 percent from last year. Total forage production on a dry equivalent basis was 6.57 million tons, 43 percent above last year's production and 17 percent above the production of two years ago. Forage was harvested from 2.0 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Average forage yield per acre in 2006 was 3.29 dry tons, compared to 2.44 dry tons a year ago and 2.84 dry tons in 2004.

Oat production was 7.04 million bushels, 16 percent above last year's production. Harvested acres totaled 110,000, unchanged from both last year and two years ago. The yield was 64 bushels per acre, 9 bushels above last year. Production of winter wheat was 8.85 million bushels, 13 percent above 2005. Harvested acres totaled 150,000, with a yield of 59.0 bushels per acre, 5 bushels per acre above last year. Winter wheat seeded in the fall of 2006 for production of a crop in 2007 totaled 160,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from a year ago. Barley production was 3.73 million bushels, 10 percent more than 2005. Acreage harvested was 46,000 with an average yield per acre of 81 bushels.

Soybean production, at 17.0 million bushels, was 1 percent below last year's production. Acreage harvested was 425,000, up 5,000 acres from 2005. The 2006 yield was 40.0 bushels per acre, 1 bushel per acre below a year ago, but 6 bushels per acre below 2004.

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Sorghum for grain production totaled 330,000 bushels, 65 percent above last year's crop. Sorghum acres harvested for grain totaled 5,000, up 1,000 from 2005. Sorghum yield was 66.0 bushels per acre, compared with a yield for grain of 50.0 bushels per acre last year, and 83.0 bushels in 2004. Sorghum acres harvested for silage was set at 6,000, up 1,000 from a year ago. Silage yield was 7.5 tons per acre, compared to 7.0 tons in 2005. Production of sorghum silage was 45,000 tons, up 29 percent from last year.

Fall potato production, at 2.73 million hundredweight (cwt.), was slightly below 2005 production. Acres harvested was down 500 from last year at 10,500. The yield of 260 cwt. per acre was up 10 cwt. from last year's yield, and 20 cwt. per acre above the yield of two years ago.

Pennsylvania burley tobacco production totaled 11.55 million pounds, up 139 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest was 5,500, compared to 2,200 a year ago. Average yield per acre was 2,100 pounds, down 100 pounds per acre from last year. Southern Maryland type tobacco production totaled 2.1 million pounds, 30 percent less than last year. Harvested acreage was 1,100, down 400 acres from 2005. Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco production totaled 2.6 million pounds, 9 percent less than last year. Harvested acreage was 1,300, the same as last year, but the average yield of 2,000 pounds per acre was down 200 pounds from last year.

Maple syrup producers in Pennsylvania produced 66,000 gallons of syrup in 2006, up 8 percent from a year ago.

At the **United States** level, corn for grain production was estimated at 10.5 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the November forecast, and 5 percent lower than 2005. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 149.1 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from the November forecast, but 1.1 bushels above 2005. The 2006 yield estimate is the second largest on record, behind 2004, while the production estimate is the third largest on record. Area harvested for grain, at 70.6 million acres, is down 6 percent from 2005.

Soybean production in 2006 totals 3.19 billion bushels, the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. This is down less than 1 percent from the November forecast, but 4 percent above the 2005 production. The average yield per acre is estimated at 42.7 bushels, 0.3 bushels below both the November forecast and last year's record high yield. Harvested area is up 5 percent from 2005, to a record high 74.6 million acres.

Production of other major crops and changes from the previous year are as follows: corn for silage, 104.9 million tons, down 2 percent; dry alfalfa hay, 71.7 million tons, down 6 percent; other dry hay, 70.0 million tons, down 7 percent; oats, 93.8 million bushels, down 18 percent; winter wheat, 1.3 billion bushels, virtually unchanged; barley 211.9 million bushels, down 24 percent; soybeans, 3.19 billion bushels, up 4 percent; all potatoes, 434.7 million cwt., up 2 percent; all tobacco, 726.7 million pounds, up 13 percent; and maple syrup 1.45 million gallons, up 17 percent.

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