



News Release

In Cooperation with Clemson University

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SOUTH CAROLINA EXPECTED WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM 2006

Based on June 1 conditions, SOUTH CAROLINA'S **WINTER WHEAT** production is expected to total 4.05 million bushels, down 14 percent from May 1 and 34 percent below last year's 6.15 million bushels, the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today. This year's expected average yield per acre of 30.0 bushels is down 5 bushels from the May 1 estimate and down 20 bushels from last year's estimate of 50 bushels.

WINTER WHEAT production in the UNITED STATES is forecast at 1.61 billion bushels, down slightly from the May 1 forecast but 24 percent above 2006. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.2 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from last month but 1.5 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 37.2 million acres, up fractionally from May 1.

SOUTH CAROLINA PEACH PRODUCTION DOWN

Based on June 1 conditions, SOUTH CAROLINA'S 2007 **PEACH PRODUCTION** is expected to total 8.0 thousand tons, down 87 percent from last year, and 89 percent below 2005, according to the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office. This would be the third smallest peach crop on record since estimates were begun in 1910, with only 1955 and 1996 having smaller crops. A severe post bloom freeze in early April destroyed much of the peach crop. Many growers reported no peaches for harvest this season. Damage was reported across the entire State, with equally severe losses reported in both of the primary growing areas.

The 2006 **PEACH CROP** in the THREE MAJOR STATES, California, Georgia, and South Carolina is forecast at 865,000 tons, up 6 percent from 2006 but 12 percent below two years ago.

The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 450,000 tons, equal to the May 1 forecast but 25 percent above 2006. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 390,000 tons, equal to the May 1 forecast but 10 percent above the 2006 crop. Georgia's peach crop is forecast at 17,000 tons, down 59 percent from last year's crop and 58 percent below 2005. Freezing temperatures on April 7 and 8 severely damaged the crop, while dry spring conditions reduced fruit size. However, quality of harvested fruit has been excellent.