



PRESS RELEASE

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Based on September 1 conditions, yields for cotton and corn are expected to be down from 2005. Yields for peanuts and soybeans are up, while tobacco yields are unchanged, the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today.

CORN production in 2006 is expected to total 28.6 million bushels, up 7 percent from last month, but down 13 percent from last year. Expected yield per acre of 106 bushels is up 7 bushels from the August forecast, but down 10 bushels from 2005. Acreage for harvest as grain, at 270,000, is down 15,000 acres from 2005.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO production, as of September 1, is forecast at 46.2 million pounds. This is down 5 percent from last month's forecast, but up 10 percent from last year's production of 42.0 million pounds. Yield per acre of 2,100 pounds is down 100 pounds from last month, but is unchanged from last year. Acreage for harvest, at 22,000, is unchanged from last month but up 2,000 acres from a year ago.

SOYBEAN production this year is forecast at 11.3 million bushels, up 8 percent from last month and up 31 percent from last year. Expected yield per acre of 26 bushels is up 2 bushels from the August estimate and 5.5 bushels a year ago. Acres for harvest, at 435,000, is up 15,000 acres from a year ago.

COTTON production in 2006 is forecast at 430,000 bales - up 5 percent from last month and last year. Yield per acre is expected to average 693 pounds, up 33 pounds from the August forecast, but down 50 pounds from the 2005 yield. Acreage for harvest, at 298,000 acres, is up 12 percent from 2005.

PEANUT production is forecast at 173.6 million pounds – unchanged from last month but up 3 percent from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 3,100 pounds is unchanged from August but 300 pounds above the 2005 yield. Acreage for harvest, at 56,000, is down 4,000 acres from last year.

UNITED STATES 2006 PRODUCTION AND PERCENT OF PREVIOUS YEAR

Corn	11.1	Bil. Bus.	100 %	Peanuts	3.20	Bil. Lbs.	66 %
Soybeans	3.09	Bil. Bus.	100 %	Cotton, Upland	19.5	Mil. Bales	84 %
Tobacco, F.C.	455	Mil. Lbs	119 %				