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News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA FRUIT PRODUCTION

Based on end of season data, SOUTH CAROLINA'S 14,000 bearing acres of **PEACH** trees produced 12,500 tons of fruit, down 47.5 thousand tons from last year's production, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. The state's utilized production of 12,000 tons sold for an average of \$1,130 a ton, resulting in a value of production of \$13,616,000.

South Carolina had 500 bearing acres of **APPLE** trees which produced 300,000 pounds of fruit, down from 3 million pounds in 2006. The value of the 300,000 pounds of utilized production was \$142,000 compared with \$375,000 the previous year.

South Carolina's 2007 **PECAN** crop is expected to total 2,000,000 pounds, up from 1,100,000 pounds last year according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Growers expect to harvest 1,500,000 pounds of improved varieties and 500,000 pounds of the Native and Seedling varieties, unchanged from October forecasts. Value of production for improved and native/seedling varieties is expected to be \$2.3 million and \$375,000 respectively.

U.S. PEACH AND PECAN PRODUCTION UP, APPLES DOWN

UNITED STATES utilized **PEACH** production in 2007 is estimated at 1.10 million tons, up 12 percent from the previous year but 4 percent below 2005. The California crop, accounting for 85 percent of the U.S. utilized peach production, is up 31 percent from 2006. For California, the Clingstone utilized production is up 40 percent and the Freestone utilized production is up 22 percent from 2006. Cold temperatures in early April damaged peach orchards in the Atlantic States from New York to Georgia, with the southeastern States being affected the most.

U.S. utilized **APPLE** production for 2007 is estimated at 9.30 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 2006. Utilized apple production in Washington decreased 4 percent to 5.40 billion pounds from 2006. Michigan's utilized production decreased 10 percent from 2006, while utilized production in New York increased 2 percent from 2006. A change in varieties produced was the primary reason for the reduction in Washington production with more growers switching from the Red Delicious variety. In New York, hailstorms damaged some of the crop; however, apple numbers and quality were high. Low summer precipitation levels in Michigan reduced fruit sizes but fruit quality remained high. A severe frost decimated orchards in the Southeast and Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky. Reports of tree damage and total crop loss were common in these States.

US **PECAN** production in 2007 totals 174,600 tons, a 69 percent increase from 2006. The value of the pecan crop increased 17 percent to 376 million dollars.