



# PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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Released on September 12, 2008

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## PEANUT GROWERS SET NEW STATE RECORD

Based on September 1 conditions, yields for cotton, peanuts, and soybeans are all up from last year, while corn and tobacco are both down, the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today.

**COTTON** production in 2008 is forecast at 192,000 bales – up 20 percent from last month and last year. Yield per acre is expected to average 688 pounds, up 37 pounds from the August forecast, and up 202 pounds from the 2007 yield. Acreage for harvest, at 134,000 acres, is down 15 percent from 2007.

**CORN** production in 2008 is expected to total 18.2 million bushels, down 15 percent from last month, and down 51 percent from last year. Expected yield per acre of 55 bushels is down 10 bushels from the August forecast, and down 45 bushels from 2007. Acreage for harvest as grain, at 330,000, is down 40,000 acres from 2007.

**FLUE-CURED TOBACCO** production, as of September 1, is forecast at 44 million pounds. This is down 2 percent from last month's forecast, and down 5 percent from last year's production of 46.1 million pounds. Yield per acre of 2,200 pounds is down 50 pounds from last month, and last year. Acreage for harvest, at 20,000, is unchanged from last month, but down 500 acres from a year ago.

**SOYBEAN** production this year is forecast at 13.2 million bushels, up 13 percent from last month and up 64 percent from last year. Expected yield per acre of 27 bushels is up 3 bushels from the August estimate and 8 bushels from 2007. Acres for harvest, at 490,000, are up 65,000 acres from a year ago.

**PEANUT** production is forecast at 227.8 million pounds – up 15 percent from last month and up 31 percent from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 3,400 pounds is up 200 pounds from August and up 300 pounds from the 2007 yield. Acreage for harvest, at 67,000, is up 11,000 from last year. Harvested acres, if realized, would be a new state record. Peanut yield would tie state records set in 2003 and 2004.

## UNITED STATES 2008 PRODUCTION AND PERCENT OF PREVIOUS YEAR

Corn	12.1	Bil. Bus.	92 %	Peanuts	4.76	Bil. Lbs.	127 %
Soybeans	2.93	Bil. Bus.	113 %	Cotton, Upland	13.4	Mil. Bales	73 %
Tobacco, F.C.	520	Mil. Lbs	103 %				