



Tennessee News Release

In Cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Tennessee Field Office · PO Box 41505 · Nashville, TN 37204 · (615) 781-5300 · www.nass.usda.gov

OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR STATE'S COTTON FARMERS

NASHVILLE, January 12, 2007 – Timely rains during the growing season and excellent harvest weather gave Tennessee cotton farmers the highest yielding crop on record during 2006, according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. With an increase in acreage as well, cotton growers produced a record number of bales, surpassing the previous mark set just a year ago. Corn yields were down 5 bushels from last year and 3 bushels below the 5-year average. Soybean yields bested the 2005 crop by 1 bushel and the 5-year average by 2 bushels per acre. Burley tobacco acreage fell again as farmers raised less than 15,000 acres for the first time since 1921. State Director Debra Kenerson noted that, "Despite a persistent dry pattern in many areas lasting from mid-summer to early fall, most row crop farmers were able to produce yields at average or above levels in 2006."

RECORD COTTON PRODUCTION FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Tennessee's cotton production is estimated at a state record 1,350,000 bales, up 20 percent from the previous record set in 2005. Producers planted 700,000 and harvested 695,000 acres, both up 60,000 from 2005. The State's final yield averaged 932 pounds of lint per acre, up 84 pounds from the previous year and a new record. The crop was 93 percent harvested as of the week ending November 26, 2006, on pace with the 5-year average. The overall reasons for such an impressive crop were timely rains, an adequate supply of heat units, better varieties, and continued success of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. As of January 1, 2007, ninety-seven percent of the State's production had been ginned, compared with ninety-nine percent normally at this time.

CORN PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1999, SORGHUM ALSO DOWN

Corn for grain production is estimated at 62.5 million bushels, down 19 percent from 2005 and the lowest since 1999. The final yield, at 125 bushels per acre, was down 5 bushels from the year earlier. Tennessee corn producers planted 550,000 acres during 2006, down 100,000 from a year earlier. Harvested area for grain was 500,000 acres with 47,000 acres for silage. Silage yield, at 16.0 tons per acre, was down 3.0 tons from 2005 with production totaling 752,000 tons. Planting began on schedule in March and was virtually completed by mid-May. The rest of the season was characterized by mostly hot, dry weather with rainfall widely scattered across the State. Excellent harvest weather allowed farmers to reach completion by mid-to-late October. Grain sorghum production in 2006 is estimated at 1.05 million bushels, down 43 percent from 2005. Area harvested for grain, at 11,000 acres, was down 9,000 acres from 2005, while average yield, at 95 bushels per acre, was up 3 bushels from the year earlier.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT

The State's final soybean yield is estimated at 39 bushels per acre, up a bushel from the previous year. Soybean production, at 44.1 million bushels, was up 5 percent from a year earlier. Producers planted 1,160,000 acres and harvested 1,130,000 acres for beans, both up 30,000 from the previous year. Soybean planting began on schedule in late April and continued at a rapid pace until completion near the end of June, well ahead of normal. Development also followed this speedy pace and allowed harvest to begin well ahead of normal. Numerous showers and a mid-month freeze during October slowed double-cropped soybean growth and hindered harvest efforts. However, due to more early maturing varieties, harvest was completed ahead of normal.

HIGHEST BURLEY YIELD SINCE 1978; LOWEST ACREAGE SINCE 1921

Burley tobacco growers produced 30.8 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2005 and the lowest production since 1927. Yields, however, averaged 2,200 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from a year earlier and the highest since 1978. Growers harvested 14,000 acres, down 18 percent from the previous year and the lowest since 1921. Frequent September rains aided late season crop development and capped a good growing season. By the first week of November, growers had stripped nearly half of the burley crop. Tennessee's dark fire-cured tobacco yields are estimated at 3,200 pounds, up 200 pounds from 2005. Dark air-cured yields are estimated at 2,750 pounds per acre, up 150 pounds from a year earlier.

2007 WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE UP 36 PERCENT

Total wheat acreage for 2007 is forecast at 380,000 acres, up 100,000 acres or 36 percent from 2006. Winter wheat seeding was underway by the last week of September with 6 percent of the crop seeded by October 1. By mid-month, a fourth of the expected crop had been sown with farmers waiting on rain to help germination. Precipitation at the end of October relieved moisture concerns in most major producing areas and allowed seeding to advance ahead of the 5-year average. Through November 19, over 88 percent of the winter wheat had been sown, out of which, almost three-fourths had emerged with good-to-excellent stands.

(OVER)

HAY PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY

Hay production, at 4.25 million tons, was down 3 percent from the 2005 crop. Hay acreage, at 1,830,000 acres, was also down 3 percent from a year earlier. Hay production, excluding alfalfa, at 4.14 million tons, was 3 percent lower than 2005. Hay producers harvested 1.80 million acres, 50,000 acres less than a year earlier with a final yield of 2.30 tons per acre. Alfalfa production, at 111,000 tons, was down 1 percent from 2005. Alfalfa producers harvested 30,000 acres with a yield of 3.70 tons per acre, up 0.50 tons from the previous year. Growers seeded 4,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2006, down 1,000 from the year earlier. Tennessee hay producers dealt with several adversities during the spring and early summer. First, wet spring weather caused overripe pastures which impacted quality. Second, this wet spell was followed by drought-like conditions across the State, which contributed to short pastures and hay fields. Beneficial September rainfall and moderate temperatures, however, helped to improve pasture conditions allowing some farmers to get second or even third cuttings. Stocks of all hay stored on Tennessee farms totaled 3.10 million tons on December 1, 2006, down 14 percent from 2005. Stocks represented 73 percent of this year's production, compared with 83 percent a year ago at this time.

CROP ESTIMATES: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, FINAL 2006, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples ¹	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,500	11,000
Corn for grain	bu.	595	500	130	125	77,350	62,500
Corn for silage	ton	50	47	19	16	950	752
Cotton ²	lb.	635	695	848	932	1,122	1,350
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	386	466
Hay, All	ton	1,885	1,830	2.32	2.32	4,367	4,251
Other	ton	1,850	1,800	2.30	2.30	4,255	4,140
Alfalfa	ton	35	30	3.20	3.70	112	111
Peaches ¹	ton	---	---	---	---	2.0	1.7
Sorghum for grain	bu.	20	11	92	95	1,840	1,045
Sorghum for silage	ton	1	2	15	19	15	38
Soybeans	bu.	1,100	1,130	38	39	41,800	44,070
Tobacco, All	lb.	22.95	19.80	2,251	2,482	51,670	49,135
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.50	5.30	3,000	3,200	16,500	16,960
Burley	lb.	17.00	14.00	2,000	2,200	34,000	30,800
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.45	0.50	2,600	2,750	1,170	1,375
Winter Wheat	bu.	150	190	56.0	64.0	8,400	12,160
UNITED STATES							
Apples ¹	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,864,900	9,842,700
Corn for grain	bu.	75,117	70,648	148.0	149.1	11,114,082	10,534,868
Corn for silage	ton	5,930	6,477	18.0	16.2	106,486	104,849
Cotton ²	lb.	13,802.6	12,731.5	831	819	23,890.2	21,729.0
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	8,172.1	7,632.0
Hay, All	ton	61,729	60,807	2.45	2.33	151,017	141,666
Other	ton	39,290	39,423	1.91	1.78	74,868	70,000
Alfalfa	ton	22,439	21,384	3.39	3.35	76,149	71,666
Peaches ¹	ton	---	---	---	---	1,184.6	1,053.8
Sorghum for grain	bu.	5,736	4,937	68.5	56.2	392,933	277,538
Sorghum for silage	ton	311	347	13.6	13.4	4,218	4,642
Soybeans	bu.	71,251	74,602	43.0	42.7	3,063,237	3,188,247
Tobacco, All	lb.	297,080	338,950	2,171	2,144	645,015	726,724
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.84	11.65	3,178	3,321	37,631	38,695
Burley	lb.	100.15	103.60	2,031	2,095	203,383	217,085
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.15	4.50	2,778	3,061	11,530	13,775
Winter Wheat	bu.	33,794	31,117	44.4	41.7	1,499,129	1,298,081

¹ Forecast. Preliminary final data to be released January 23, 2007.

² Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

##

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov