



Tennessee News Release

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

TENNESSEE WHEAT YIELD FORECAST AT 60 BUSHELS

NASHVILLE, June 10, 2008 – Tennessee’s 2008 winter wheat production is forecast at 29.4 million bushels, up slightly from a month earlier and the highest output since 1982, according to a recent survey conducted by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. The State’s average yield is forecast at 60 bushels per acre, up 19 bushels from 2007 and the second highest on record. Fueled by high prices, Tennessee farmers seeded 620,000 acres last fall, 200,000 more than the previous year and the third consecutive increase in acreage after 5 straight years of decline. Wheat producers expect to harvest 490,000 acres for grain, 230,000 more than a year ago. The remaining 130,000 acres were used as a cover crop, will be harvested for hay or silage, or were abandoned. As of June 1, seventy-two percent of the wheat had turned color with only one percent of the acreage ripe, almost a week behind the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition and harvest is expected to begin within the next week.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 20 PERCENT

Winter Wheat production is forecast at 1.82 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and up 20 percent from 2007. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from the previous forecast and up 3.1 bushels from last year. Grain area totals 40.2 million acres, unchanged from last month. As of June 1, heading had reached 75 percent in the 18 major States, 9 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Progress was behind normal due primarily to below normal temperatures throughout the growing season. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the growing area.

Winter wheat acreage reached the heading stage for more than one-fourth of the crop by early May and progressed 10 to 15 points during each week of the month. By month’s end, three-fourths of the acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, 9 points behind average. Developmental delays existed in most of the winter wheat States. In Nebraska, heading was 39 points behind the 5-year average pace. Montana’s wheat crop faced major delays with none of the acres heading by month’s end. South Dakota’s crop was also delayed with only 4 percent of the acreage at or beyond the heading stage, 53 and 37 points behind last year and normal, respectively.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., June 1, 2008 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	700	840	41.0	56.0	28,700	47,040
Georgia	230	350	40.0	55.0	9,200	19,250
Kentucky	250	450	49.0	69.0	12,250	31,050
Mississippi	330	425	56.0	57.0	18,480	24,225
Missouri	880	1,120	43.0	54.0	37,840	60,480
North Carolina	500	700	40.0	53.0	20,000	37,100
TENNESSEE	260	490	41.0	60.0	10,660	29,400
Virginia	205	250	64.0	66.0	13,120	16,500
United States	35,952	40,162	42.2	45.3	1,515,989	1,817,364

¹ 2008 forecast, 2007 final.