



# 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 HOLDS STEADY

**NASHVILLE, June 11, 2007** - Tennessee's 2007 winter wheat production is forecast at 7.36 million bushels, unchanged from a month earlier according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. The State's average yield is forecast at 32 bushels per acre, down 50 percent from 2006 and the lowest in sixteen years. Tennessee farmers seeded 400,000 acres last fall, 120,000 more than the previous year and the second consecutive increase in acreage after 5 straight years of decline to start this decade. Wheat producers expect to harvest 230,000 acres for grain, 40,000 more than a year ago. The remaining 170,000 acres were used as a cover crop, will be harvested for hay or silage, or abandoned due to freeze damage. As of June 3, ninety-five percent of the wheat crop had turned color with a fifth of the acreage ripe, slightly behind the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition and harvest is expected to begin on schedule within the next couple of weeks.

## U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 24 PERCENT

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.61 billion bushels, down less than one percent from the May 1 forecast but up 24 percent from 2006. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.2 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from the previous forecast, but up 1.5 bushels from last year. Grain area totals 37.2 million acres, up fractionally from last month. As of May 27, heading had reached 80 percent in the 18 major States, 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was slightly behind normal during the first part of the month due primarily to below normal temperatures, but was ahead of normal by the end of the month. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the growing area.

Winter wheat heading began the month behind the normal pace but advanced ahead of normal by month's end. On May 27, eighty percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 1 point ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Heading was complete in Arkansas, California, North Carolina, and Oklahoma, but had not yet begun in Montana by month's end. May showers maintained abundant to locally excessive soil moisture throughout the Great Plains for filling winter wheat. Although the April 7-8 freeze slowed crop development in Kansas and Missouri, more favorable conditions in May allowed the crop to develop at or ahead of normal in both States. Meanwhile, the overall condition of the crop remained the same throughout the month.

**Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., June 1, 2007 with Comparisons<sup>1</sup>**

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	305	600	61.0	42.0	18,605	25,200
Georgia	120	250	49.0	40.0	5,880	10,000
Kentucky	320	190	71.0	38.0	22,720	7,220
Mississippi	73	300	59.0	59.0	4,307	17,700
Missouri	910	800	54.0	42.0	49,140	33,600
North Carolina	420	460	59.0	38.0	24,780	17,480
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>12,160</b>	<b>7,360</b>
Virginia	155	175	68.0	61.0	10,540	10,675
United States	31,117	37,222	41.7	43.2	1,298,081	1,609,679

<sup>1</sup> 2007 forecast, 2006 final.