



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

2007 REPORT SHOWS MAJOR SHIFT IN CROP ACREAGES

NASHVILLE, June 29, 2007 – Tennessee farmers have once again shown their remarkable ability to adjust to market conditions by making significant shifts in their mix of acreage, this despite a devastating Easter freeze and drought-like conditions this spring. Based on a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, corn growers took advantage of higher market prices driven by the growing demand for ethanol and planted the highest recorded acreage in over 20 years. This nearly 300,000 acre jump is the largest single year increase since records began in 1926. The source of the additional corn acres came at the expense of cotton and soybeans, as well as wheat that was lost to the early April freeze. Cotton acreage declined over 200,000 and was the largest drop since 1954, when 327,000 less acres were planted than the year earlier. Burley tobacco acreage is also expected to continue its downward trend, but both the state's dark types are forecast to rise. Crop acreages and expected changes from last year are as follows: **Cotton**, 480,000 acres, down 31 percent; **Soybeans**, 1.10 million acres, down 5 percent; **Corn**, 840,000 acres, up 53 percent; **Tobacco**, 19,050 acres, down 4 percent; **Wheat**, 450,000 acres, up 61 percent; and **Hay**, 1.90 million acres, up 4 percent.

COTTON ACREAGE LOWEST IN 9 YEARS

Cotton acreage for 2007 is estimated at 480,000 acres, down 220,000 from last year and the lowest in the State since 1998. This decrease was mainly due to declines in our major producing counties, such as Haywood and Gibson, where a number of producers switched to corn. Normal crop rotation also played a role in the drop, as well as prices which have been mostly stagnant. Ninety-eight percent of the crop was planted with biotechnology varieties with the largest percentage being stacked gene. As of June 24, crop development was progressing ahead of normal with 65 percent of the acreage having reached the squaring stage. The crop was rated in mostly good-to-fair condition.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE SHIFTS DOWNWARD

Tennessee's 2007 soybean acreage is estimated at 1.10 million acres, up 30,000 acres from earlier intentions in March, but 60,000 acres less than last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.07 million acres, also down 60,000 acres from 2006. Despite persistent dry weather, farmers planted this year's crop at a near record pace, with 90 percent of the acreage in the ground by mid-June. Producers continued the trend of planting earlier-maturing varieties. As of June 24, the crop was rated in mostly fair-to-poor condition.

CORN JUMPS NEARLY 300,000 ACRES; SORGHUM UP AS WELL

The State's corn acreage is estimated at 840,000 acres, up 290,000 from last year, and if realized, the largest number of acres planted since 1986. Growers expect to harvest 780,000 acres for grain, 280,000 more than last year and the highest since 1985. Despite the devastating Easter freeze, planting was virtually completed by mid-May. Generally, acres that were damaged by the freeze were re-planted to corn. Also, some wheat acres lost to the freeze were re-planted to corn. These factors, combined with continued strong market prices, led farmers to plant more corn than earlier intentions. As of June 24, just over 40 percent of the crop had entered the silking stage and most acreage was rated in poor-to-fair condition. Area planted to **sorghum** in 2007 is estimated at 20,000 acres, up 6,000 from 2006. Area for sorghum grain harvest is estimated at 17,000 acres, also up 6,000 acres from last year.

BURLEY ACREAGE DOWN AGAIN; DARK TYPES TO INCREASE

For the eighth consecutive year, the State's burley tobacco acreage is expected to decrease from the previous year, as acreage dropped 14 percent to 12,000 acres. Total tobacco acreage intended for harvest, which includes burley, dark fire-cured and dark air-cured, is set at a total of 19,050 acres, down 750 acres from the year earlier. The dark types, both up from a year earlier, and the change from 2006 are as follows: Dark Fire-cured, 6,400 acres, up 21 percent; Dark Air-cured, 650 acres, up 30 percent. As of June 24, transplanting was virtually completed, on pace with the five-year average.

WHEAT ACREAGE UP 61 PERCENT

The 2007 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 450,000 acres, up 170,000 acres from 2006 and the highest since 2002. This marks the largest one year increase since 1981. Area for harvest as grain is 300,000 acres, up 110,000 acres from the 2006 total. Ideal weather for harvest allowed farmers to have the majority of acreage combined by the week ending June 24.

(OVER)

HAY ACREAGE UP SLIGHTLY

Tennessee producers intend to harvest 1.90 million acres of hay in 2007, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 40,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from last year. All other hay is estimated at 1.86 million acres, up 3 percent from 2006. Tennessee's hay harvest has advanced ahead of schedule this year, due to mostly hot and dry weather. While quality has not been an issue, most areas are reporting a reduction in yields. With low stocks coming out of the winter, many farmers have chosen to cut fields not normally used for hay production. As of June 24, the crop was rated in mostly poor-to-fair condition. The lack of available grazing and hay shortages have resulted in the liquidation and earlier than normal culling of cattle herds across the State.

Planted and Harvested Acreage of Principal Crops: Tennessee and U.S., 2006-2007

Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2007/2006
	1,000 Acres				Percent
TENNESSEE					
Corn	550	840	500	780	156
Cotton	700.0	480.0	695.0	¹	-
Soybeans	1,160	1,100	1,130	1,070	95
Winter Wheat	280	450	190	300	158
Sorghum	14	20	11	17	155
Hay, all	-	-	1,830	1,900	104
Alfalfa	-	-	30	40	133
All Other	-	-	1,800	1,860	103
Tobacco, all	-	-	19.80	19.05	96
Dark fire-cured	-	-	5.30	6.40	121
Burley	-	-	14.0	12.0	86
Dark air-cured	-	-	0.50	0.65	130
UNITED STATES					
Corn	78,327	92,888	70,648	85,418	121
Cotton ²	15,274.0	11,058.0	12,731.5	¹	-
Soybeans	75,522	64,081	74,602	63,285	85
Winter Wheat	40,575	45,136	31,117	37,580	121
Sorghum	6,522	7,765	4,937	6,698	136
Hay, all	-	-	60,807	61,789	102
Alfalfa	-	-	21,384	21,451	100
All Other	-	-	39,423	40,388	103
Tobacco, all	-	-	338.90	355.67	105
Dark fire-cured	-	-	11.85	13.30	112
Burley	-	-	103.60	106.80	103
Dark air-cured	-	-	4.30	4.65	108

¹Estimate to be released August 10, 2007. ²U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.