



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

TENNESSEE 2008 WHEAT YIELDS AT RECORD LEVEL

NASHVILLE, July 11, 2008 – Based on a recent survey administered by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, the State’s 2008 winter wheat yields are expected to average 65.0 bushels per acre, up 24 bushels from last year and, if realized, the highest since records began in 1866. Producers seeded a total of 640,000 acres last fall, up 52 percent from the previous year and the highest since 1984. Harvested area for grain, at 550,000, is more than twice the previous year. With the increased acreage, total production, at 35.8 million bushels, is the highest the State has seen since 1981. Harvest was virtually complete by the first week of July, slightly ahead of the normal pace.

U. S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 23 PERCENT FROM 2007

Winter Wheat production is forecast at 1.86 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the June 1 forecast and up 23 percent from 2007. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 4.1 bushels above last year. Expected grain area totals 40.3 million acres, up 12 percent from last year but unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008. Harvest progress in the 18 major producing States was 36 percent complete as of June 29. This was the same as last year's progress but 12 points behind the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., July 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	880	41.0	58.0	28,700	51,040
Georgia	230	400	40.0	58.0	9,200	23,200
Kentucky	250	450	49.0	71.0	12,250	31,950
Mississippi	330	480	56.0	59.0	18,480	28,320
Missouri	880	1,120	43.0	52.0	37,840	58,240
North Carolina	500	700	40.0	58.0	20,000	40,600
TENNESSEE	260	550	41.0	65.0	10,660	35,750
Virginia	205	260	64.0	71.0	13,120	18,460
United States	35,952	40,252	42.2	46.3	1,515,989	1,864,245

¹ 2008 forecast, 2007 final.

TENNESSEE’S COMMERCIAL PEACH PRODUCERS REBOUND FROM DREADFUL 2007

Tennessee peach production has rebounded nicely from the Easter freeze of 2007 and is expected to total 1,900 tons from 500 bearing acres. Last year, Tennessee had no significant peach production due to freeze damage. The crop was rated in good to excellent condition with development lagging only slightly behind normal. Results of the July survey strongly indicate that small and medium sized growers are expecting a tremendous crop, while others are expecting an average crop. Should conditions hold, the end result should be a crop resembling the one in 2006.

U. S. PEACH FORECAST

The U.S. peach production forecast is 1.10 million tons, down 3 percent from 2007 but 9 percent above the 2006 crop. Nineteen of the 28 Freestone peach estimating States expect increases in production from last year, while eight States decreased their production from the previous season, and one State showed no change. Freestone production, at 717,150 tons, is up 15 percent from last season.

In 2007, devastating cold temperatures in early April damaged peach orchards in the Atlantic States from New York to Georgia with production in the southeastern States affected the most. Conditions have been more conducive to peach production thus far this season. The South Carolina peach crop, at 55,000 tons, is down 15 percent from the June 1 forecast but 42,500 tons above 2007. Conditions declined from the June 1 forecast with scattered hailstorms and drought-like conditions reported. Many peach producers reported a good crop, but some sustained damage from localized hailstorms. However, peach tree fruit set remained rather heavy and the potential for a good crop remained. Georgia's peach crop is forecast at 35,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast but 169 percent above the frost-damaged 2007 crop. Pennsylvania and New Jersey showed production increases from a year ago at 19 percent and 6 percent, respectively. Freezing temperatures in Michigan and hail damage in New York lowered production expectations by 22 percent and 10 percent, respectively. In Washington and Oregon, a cold, wet spring lowered production expectations. Washington's production is expected to decrease 8 percent from a year ago, while Oregon producers are expecting a 27 percent decline.