



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

TENNESSEE 2007 WHEAT YIELDS LOWEST IN 16 YEARS

NASHVILLE, July 12, 2007 – Based on a recent survey administered by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, the State’s 2007 winter wheat yields are expected to average 39.0 bushels per acre, the lowest since 1991, and 25 bushels below last year’s record of 64.0 bushels per acre. Producers seeded a total of 450,000 acres last fall, up 61 percent from the previous year and the highest since 2002. Harvested area for grain, at 300,000, is up 58 percent from the previous year. With the increased acreage, total production, at 11.7 million bushels, is down only 4 percent from 2006. Although yields are down drastically from 2006, results are better than originally expected after an Easter freeze which took a tremendous toll on the crop. Farmers experienced ideal harvest weather during June, allowing them to virtually complete harvest by the end of the month, surpassing the normal pace.

U. S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 20 PERCENT FROM 2006

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.56 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the June 1 forecast but up 20 percent from 2006. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.6 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels from last month and 0.1 bushel below last year. Expected grain area totals 37.6 million acres, up 21 percent from last year but unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 29, 2007. Harvest progress in the 18 major producing States was 40 percent complete by July 1. This was 22 percentage points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest is nearly complete in the southern portion of the growing area and revealed that the April freeze caused yields to be below normal but higher than previously expected.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., July 1, 2007 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	305	670	61.0	40.0	18,605	26,800
Georgia	120	250	49.0	38.0	5,880	9,500
Kentucky	320	240	71.0	51.0	22,720	12,240
Mississippi	73	330	59.0	61.0	4,307	20,130
Missouri	910	850	54.0	42.0	49,140	35,700
North Carolina	420	500	59.0	39.0	24,780	19,500
TENNESSEE	190	300	64.0	39.0	12,160	11,700
Virginia	155	185	68.0	67.0	10,540	12,395
United States	31,117	37,588	41.7	41.6	1,298,081	1,561,907

¹ 2007 forecast, 2006 final.

TENNESSEE’S COMMERCIAL PEACH PRODUCERS EXPERIENCE TOTAL LOSS

Tennessee commercial peach producers suffered a complete loss due to a hard freeze the first week of April. Peaches across the state were especially vulnerable during this period because of unseasonably warm weather during March that contributed to an early full bloom. This is the first total loss since 1985.

U. S. PEACH FORECAST

The U.S. peach production forecast is 1.03 million tons, up 2 percent from 2006 but 13 percent below the 2005 crop. Nineteen of the 28 Freestone peach estimating States expect decreases in production from last year, while six States increased their production from the previous season, and three States showed no change. Freestone production, at 576,845 tons, is down 11 percent from last season.

Devastating cold temperatures in early April damaged peach orchards in the Atlantic States from New York to Georgia. Production in the southeastern States was affected the most. The South Carolina peach crop is forecast at 8,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast but 87 percent below 2006. Damage was reported across the entire State with severe losses reported. Georgia’s peach crop is forecast at 13,000 tons, down 24 percent from the June 1 forecast and 68 percent below 2006. In addition to frost damage, the State’s orchardists reported smaller fruit size because of the dry conditions. North Carolina’s peach crop, at 1,000 tons, is down 82 percent from a year ago, while Virginia’s crop is down 48 percent. Alabama’s peach crop has suffered substantially due to untimely freezes in early April and abnormally dry weather throughout the spring and summer.