



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

USDA UPDATES 2008 CROP FORECAST

NASHVILLE, September 12, 2008 – The State’s cotton crop benefited during August from timely rainfall and appears it will reach the potential forecasted a month ago. The remnants of Tropical Storm Fay moved through the State near the end of the month and brought significant rains that were a boost to the cotton crop, and also aided pastures and double-cropped soybeans. Debra Kenerson, State Director, added, “The degree to which yields respond as a result of this rainfall is still unclear, given how late in the growing season it arrived.” The September forecast, which is based on farmers’ projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 115 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from 2007; **Cotton**, 806 pounds per acre, up 241 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 30 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from the previous year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds from last year.

COTTON YIELDS UP SHARPLY

Tennessee’s cotton production is forecast at 470,000 bales, down only 22 percent from last year’s production of 600,000 bales despite a 45 percent drop in acreage. Cotton yields are expected to average 806 pounds per acre, up 241 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 280,000 acres, down 230,000 acres from 2007. Cotton yields are better than expected last month, as the crop responded positively to the late-August rains. As of the first of September, crop development continued to lag behind the normal pace and was more than a week behind the 5-year average. Sixty percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION MORE THAN DOUBLES 2007

Soybean production is forecast at 41.4 million bushels, up 137 percent from last year’s drought level. Soybean yields are forecast at 30 bushels per acre, 12 bushels above 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1,380 million acres, up 410,000 from a year ago. Widely scattered rainfall last month coupled with moderate temperatures helped to offset the lack of moisture, unlike last year when it was dry and hot. Rain arrived the second half of the month, which aided in the crop’s development and condition. As of the first of September, over ninety percent of the crop was setting pods with just over a tenth dropping leaves. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

CORN YIELDS BELOW AVERAGE

Tennessee’s corn production is forecast at 73.6 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 115 bushels per acre, 9 bushels above 2007 but 11 bushels below the 5-year average. Farmers expect to harvest 640,000 acres for grain, 145,000 less than last year. August rains appear to have arrived too late to benefit the State’s corn crop. With harvest underway on a very limited basis, yields are highly variable and not as high as earlier anticipated. As of the first of September, virtually the entire corn crop was denting with just over a third mature, well behind the normal pace. Over two-thirds of the silage acreage has been harvested.

(OVER)

BURLEY PRODUCTION UP FROM 2007

As of September 1, burley production is forecast at 24.7 million pounds, 19 percent above a year ago. Yields are forecast to average 1,900 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds from 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 13,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. A fair burley and an excellent dark tobacco crop are in the works for 2008, as timely rains on a late transplanted crop have growers very optimistic. In general, growers are looking for a crop similar to 2006. As of the first of September, nearly 90 percent of the crop had been topped and harvest was in full swing. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,200 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre, both well above 2007.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2008, WITH COMPARISONS

| Crop | Units | Harvested Acres | | Yield Per Acre | | Production | |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | 2007 | Indicated 2008 | 2007 | Indicated 2008 | 2007 | Indicated 2008 |
| | | Thousands | | Number of Units | | Thousands | |
| TENNESSEE | | | | | | | |
| Apples | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 100 | 9,000 |
| Corn for grain | bu. | 785 | 640 | 106 | 115 | 83,210 | 73,600 |
| Cotton ¹ | lb. | 510 | 280 | 565 | 806 | 600 | 470 |
| Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa) | ton | 1,700 | 1,800 | 1.40 | 2.10 | 2,380 | 3,780 |
| Peaches | ton | --- | --- | --- | --- | 0 ² | 1.90 |
| Soybeans | bu. | 970 | 1,380 | 18 | 30 | 17,460 | 41,400 |
| Tobacco, All | lb. | 19.98 | 21.80 | 1,934 | 2,388 | 38,636 | 52,060 |
| Dark fire-cured | lb. | 6.2 | 7.2 | 2,600 | 3,200 | 16,120 | 23,040 |
| Burley | lb. | 13.0 | 13.0 | 1,600 | 1,900 | 20,800 | 24,700 |
| Dark air-cured | lb. | 0.78 | 1.60 | 2,200 | 2,700 | 1,716 | 4,320 |
| Winter Wheat | bu. | 260 | 550 | 41.0 | 65.0 | 10,660 | 35,750 |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | | |
| Apples | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 9,113,900 | 9,165,200 |
| Corn for grain | bu. | 86,542 | 79,290 | 151.1 | 152.3 | 13,073,893 | 12,072,365 |
| Cotton ¹ | lb. | 10,489 | 7,830 | 879 | 849 | 19,207 | 13,846 |
| Hay, All | ton | 61,625 | 60,439 | 2.44 | 2.45 | 150,304 | 147,955 |
| Peaches | ton | --- | --- | 8.41 | --- | 1,129 | 1,094 |
| Soybeans | bu. | 62,820 | 73,341 | 41.2 | 40.0 | 2,585,207 | 2,933,888 |
| Tobacco, All | lb. | 356.0 | 356.04 | 2,191 | 2,289 | 779,899 | 814,907 |
| Dark fire-cured | lb. | 14.6 | 18.4 | 2,855 | 3,342 | 41,688 | 61,490 |
| Burley | lb. | 106.3 | 96.0 | 1,951 | 2,050 | 207,387 | 196,735 |
| Dark air-cured | lb. | 4.98 | 8.30 | 2,706 | 2,942 | 13,476 | 24,420 |
| Winter Wheat | bu. | 35,952 | 40,252 | 42.2 | 46.6 | 1,515,989 | 1,874,857 |

¹Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton. ²No significant commercial production due to freeze damage.

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