



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

YIELDS COME INTO FOCUS WITH EARLY HARVEST

NASHVILLE, October 12, 2007 – Farmers across the Volunteer State took advantage of mostly dry weather throughout the month of September to make excellent progress in harvesting the State’s row crops. With harvest complete or actively underway, producers now have a much better assessment of actual crop yields. As of October 1, nearly all of the corn and tobacco acreage had been harvested, while just over a quarter of the soybeans and cotton was completed. The results of an October 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the following: **Corn**, 106 bushels per acre, down 19 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 756 pounds per acre, down 189 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 23 bushels per acre, 16 bushels below the previous year; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,600 pounds per acre, down 600 pounds from last year; and **Hay**, 1.3 tons per acre, down 1.0 tons from 2006. State Director Debra Kenerson explained, “Despite scattered showers during September, rain deficits were too great entering the month to make a positive impact on crop yields.”

COTTON PRODUCTION TAKES A DIVE

Tennessee’s cotton production is forecast at 780,000 bales, down 43 percent from a year ago and the lowest output in seven years. This is due to the combination of a sharp acreage and yield decline from last year. Yields are expected to average 756 pounds per acre, down 189 pounds from a year ago and the lowest since 2002. Producers expect to harvest 495,000 acres, down 200,000 acres from 2006. Although harvest has progressed a full 2 weeks ahead of the normal pace, pickers are having a difficult time gathering the small, hard, extremely dry bolls. The intense heat and dry weather during August and into September caused plants to mature before the bolls could properly form and open.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1966

Tennessee’s soybean production is forecast as 22.8 million bushels, down 48 percent from 2006 and the lowest since 1966. Soybeans yields are expected to average 23 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last month’s projection and 16 bushels from a year ago. Farmers planted an estimated 1.04 million acres this year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 990,000 acres, down 140,000 from a year ago and the lowest since 1992. Although scattered rain fell across parts of the State during September, temperatures remained about ten degrees above normal. As a result, over half of the crop was rated in very poor to poor condition as of month’s end. As of the week ending October 7, just over 40 percent of the crop had been harvested, a pace about a week ahead of normal.

CORN PRODUCTION REBOUNDS FROM A YEAR AGO

Tennessee’s corn production is forecast at 85.9 million bushels, up 37 percent from a year earlier. Corn yields are expected to average 106 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from last month, but 19 bushels below 2006. Farmers planted an estimated 870,000 acres this year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 810,000 acres for grain, up 62 percent from last year and the highest since 1985. Dry weather during September allowed farmers to make excellent harvest progress. As of the week ending September 30, virtually the entire crop had been shelled, over 3 weeks ahead of normal.

(over)

BURLEY PRODUCTION LOWEST IN 85 YEARS

Tennessee's burley production is forecast at 19.2 million pounds, down 38 percent from a year ago, and if realized, the lowest level since 1922. Tobacco growers are expecting burley yields to average 1,600 pounds per acre, down 600 pounds from last year and the lowest since 1986. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 12,000 acres, down 2,000 from 2006. Harvest of the crop was nearly wrapped-up by October 1, on pace with normal. Curing conditions have been poor thus far. Nearly 15 percent of the burley has been stripped. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 2,700 pounds per acre, down 500 pounds from a year ago, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,200 pounds per acre, down 550 pounds from 2006.

HAY YIELDS AT 1962 LEVEL

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 2.42 million tons, 42 percent below 2006. Yields are expected to average 1.3 tons per acre, down a ton from last year and the lowest since 1962. Acreage is estimated at 1.86 million acres, up 60,000 acres from a year earlier. Livestock producers have endured limited grazing, as well as hay and water shortages due to an on-going drought. As of October 1, hay stocks were rated 46 percent very short, 37 percent short, and 17 percent adequate. Despite a few rain showers during September, pastures remained in mostly very poor to poor condition.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2007, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2006	Indicated 2007	2006	Indicated 2007	2006	Indicated 2007
		Thousand		Number of Units		Thousand	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,000	100
Corn for grain	bu.	500	810	125	106	62,500	85,860
Cotton ¹	lb.	695	495	945	756	1,368	780
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,800	1,860	2.30	1.30	4,140	2,418
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1.9	²
Soybeans	bu.	1,130	990	39	23	44,070	22,770
Tobacco, All	lb.	19.80	19.05	2,482	1,990	49,135	37,910
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.30	6.40	3,200	2,700	16,960	17,280
Burley	lb.	14.00	12.00	2,200	1,600	30,800	19,200
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.50	0.65	2,750	2,200	1,375	1,430
Winter Wheat	bu.	190	260	64	41	12,160	10,660
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,931,700	9,254,700
Corn for grain	bu.	70,648	86,071	149.1	154.7	10,534,868	13,318,102
Cotton ¹	lb.	12,731.5	10,543.0	814	826	21,587.8	18,153.5
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,423	40,338	1.78	1.87	70,000	75,617
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1,010.1	1,026.9
Soybeans	bu.	74,602	62,818	42.7	41.4	3,188,247	2,598,046
Tobacco, All	lb.	338.9	355,070	2,144	2,000	726,644	709,965
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.85	13.30	3,324	2,826	39,392	37,580
Burley	lb.	103.6	105.2	2,095	1,826	217,085	192,105
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.30	4.65	3,059	2,544	13,155	11,830
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,117	35,952	41.7	42.2	1,298,081	1,515,989

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

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