



Tennessee Farm Facts

Tennessee Field Office • PO Box 41505 • Nashville, TN 37204 • (615) 781-5300 • www.nass.usda.gov
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

August Crop Production | Land Values | Prices Received
Hog & Pig District Estimates | Layer & Eggs | Cotton Ginnings

August 12, 2009

State's Major Row Crops Show Promise

A cooler and wetter than normal summer has Tennessee's row major row crops rated in mostly good condition. At this point in the season, conditions are as good as they have been since the mid 2000's. The result is yield prospects that surpass last year for cotton, corn, and soybeans. An August 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the following: **Corn**, 135 bushels per acre, up 17 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 916 pounds per acre, up 7 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 40 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above the previous year; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, equaling last year; and **Hay, except alfalfa**, 2.2 tons per acre, up 0.1 tons from 2008.

Cotton Production Up On Strength of Acreage

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 630,000 bales, up 19 percent from last year's production of 530,000 bales. Cotton yields are expected to average 916 pounds per acre, up 7 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 330,000 acres, up 50,000 acres from 2008. Yield potential is very good despite the lateness of the crop. Overall crop development is one week behind the five year average pace, but some acreage is two weeks or more behind schedule. The crop has had ample moisture but could use more heat units and sunshine, as cooler than normal weather prevailed in July. The crop is mostly rated in good condition and ranges from fair to excellent.

Soybean Production Set To Rise Sharply

Soybean production is forecast at 62.4 million bushels, up 126 percent from last year. Soybean yields are forecast at 40 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above 2008. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.56 million acres, up 100,000 from a year ago. Producers had trouble getting their crop planted, but weather has been surprisingly nice for soybeans since July 1, when uncharacteristically cool temperatures and adequate rainfall prevailed. Crop development remains late. As of August 9, 84 percent of the crop was blooming, about a week behind normal, and 58 percent of the crop was setting pods. Growers are cautiously optimistic, as the rains and humidity in July have increased diseases. Producers are spraying fungicides and scouting fields for diseases.

Corn Production Near 80 Million Bushels

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 79.7 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Farmers expect to harvest 590,000 acres for grain, 40,000 less than last year. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 135 bushels per acre, 17 bushels above 2008 and 11 bushels above the 5-year average. As of the week ending August 9, over three-fourths of the state's corn crop had reached the dough stage with just over a third in the dent stage, trailing the normal pace. Yields are highly variable, ranging from 30 to 200 bushels per acre. This can mainly be attributed to alternating periods of dryness and excessive moisture. Recapping the season to date, an extremely wet spring delayed planting and caused massive replanting, but most farmers were able to finish near the normal window. The weather then turned very dry over the next few weeks before weekly downpours set in across the state that continued until August 1.

Apple Production Down

Apple growers are expected to produce an estimated 8.0 million pounds of apples, down from last year's production of 10.0 million pounds. Crop development is slightly behind schedule. Crop condition is rated mostly good. There was some reduction in production reported due to such factors as hail and early dry weather.

Burley Production Unchanged

As of August 1, burley production is forecast at 24.7 million pounds, unchanged from a year ago. Yields are forecast to average 1,900 pounds per acre, equal to last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 13,000 acres, unchanged from 2008. An average burley and another excellent dark tobacco crop are in the works for 2009. The crop is in all stages of development from knee high to already cut. With excellent moisture, even the very late crop is expected to do well. East Tennessee growers are looking for a much better crop than 2008. Middle Tennessee farmers remain optimistic but have recently detected wet weather-related diseases that may pull yields down. Producers are topping now and as of the week ending August 9, 54 percent of the crop had been topped, compared with the five-year average of 61 percent. Harvest began in late July. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,200 pounds per acre, unchanged from the previous year, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,800 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from 2008.

Hay Production Rebounds From 2008

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.18 million tons, 8 percent above 2008. Yields are expected to average 2.2 tons per acre, up 0.1 tons from last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.9 million acres, up 50,000 acres from a year earlier. Pastures and hay fields have responded positively to summer rains and cooler temperatures. As a result, pastures were greener on August 1 than in recent history. Producers are expecting at least a second cutting of hay. As of the week ending August 9, over three-fourths of the state's pastures were rated in good-to-excellent condition.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, August 1, 2009, with Comparisons

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2008	Indicated 2009	2008	Indicated 2009	2008	Indicated 2009
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	---	---	11,100	8,890	10,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	630	590	118	135	74,340	79,650
Cotton ¹	lb.	280	330	909	916	530	630
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	Ton	1,850	1,900	2.10	2.20	3,885	4,180
Soybeans	bu.	1,460	1,560	34	40	49,640	62,400
Tobacco, All	lb.	21.8	20.6	2,403	2,358	52,380	48,580
Dark fire-cured	lb.	7.2	6.5	3,200	3,200	23,040	20,800
Burley	lb.	13.0	13.0	1,900	1,900	24,700	24,700
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.6	1.1	2,900	2,800	4,640	3,080
Winter Wheat	bu.	520	340	63.0	54.0	32,760	18,360
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,769,300	10,113,000
Corn for grain	bu.	78,640	80,007	153.9	159.5	12,101,238	12,760,986
Cotton ¹	lb.	7,569	7,765	813	816	12,815	13,207
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,082	39,195	1.95	2.01	76,052	78,955
Soybeans	bu.	74,641	76,767	39.6	41.7	2,959,174	3,199,172
Tobacco, All	lb.	354.5	343.0	2,258	2,288	800,504	784,660
Dark fire-cured	lb.	18.6	16.6	3,344	3,253	62,190	53,845
Burley	lb.	99.3	100.9	2,068	2,112	205,310	213,135
Dark air-cured	lb.	8.5	6.1	2,981	2,882	25,340	17,580
Winter Wheat	bu.	39,614	34,787	47.2	44.2	1,867,903	1,537,348

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

Land Values Decline

Tennessee: Farm real estate values, including all land and buildings, averaged \$3,300 per acre as of January 1, 2009, down 4 percent from the previous year. The \$150 per acre decrease in farm real estate values was the first decline in value since 1986. The overall decrease followed cropland and pasture values, which fell by 4 and 6 percent, respectively, from January 1, 2008. The average value of cropland dipped \$130 to \$3,270 and the value of pasture dropped \$230 to \$3,650 per acre, the first decline for each since records began in 1997. Tennessee's cropland cash rent during 2009 was \$68.50 per acre, the same as 2008. Pasture cash rent in the state was \$22.00 per acre, unchanged from 2008.

Agricultural Land Values and Cash Rents: Average per Acre, Tennessee, January 1, 2000-2009

Year	Farm Real Estate ¹ Value Per Acre	Cropland		Pasture	
		Value Per Acre	Cash Rent Per Acre	Value Per Acre	Cash Rent Per Acre
Dollars					
2000	2,100	2,120	60.00	2,050	18.00
2001	2,200	2,200	59.50	2,150	18.00
2002	2,300	2,270	60.50	2,250	17.00
2003	2,400	2,350	62.00	2,350	17.50
2004	2,500	2,420	67.00	2,450	19.00
2005	2,790	2,590	67.00	3,150	18.00
2006	2,970	2,820	67.00	3,400	19.00
2007	3,250	3,200	67.00	3,680	20.00
2008	3,450	3,400	68.50	3,880	22.00
2009	3,300	3,270	68.50	3,650	22.00

¹ Includes land and buildings.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., July 2009 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		July 2008	June ¹ 2009	July ² 2009	July 2008	June ¹ 2009	July ² 2009
Dollars Per Unit							

Field Crops

Corn	bu.	6.48	4.32	3.90	5.25	4.03	3.33
Cotton Lint	lb.	.669	.458	.502 ³	.662	.464	.458 ³
Sorghum	cwt.	⁴	⁴	n/a	9.06	6.30	5.57
Soybeans	bu.	14.70	12.00	10.50	13.30	11.40	10.30
Winter Wheat	bu.	4.82	4.84	n/a	7.10	5.42	4.78

Livestock

All Beef Cattle	cwt.	79.00	70.80	73.00	95.00	80.40	81.40
Steers & Heifers	cwt.	95.00	88.00	91.00	99.60	85.00	85.70
Cows	cwt.	55.00	45.00	46.00	56.50	45.70	48.30
Calves	cwt.	97.00	97.00	97.00	114.00	110.00	109.00

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month. ⁴ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. n/a = not available.

Hog and Pigs: Number on Farms, by District, Tennessee, December 1, 2008

District	All Hogs and Pigs	Breeding Hogs	District	All Hogs and Pigs	Breeding Hogs
20	153,000	8,700	50	15,000	5,800
30	11,500	2,500	Districts 10 & 60	12,500	1,000
40	13,000	2,000			
			State	205,000	20,000

Layer & Eggs: All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2009 totaled 332 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 332 million layers consisted of 275 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.89 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2009, averaged 73.7 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from July 1, 2008.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States
and United States, During June 2008 and 2009**

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Number	Number
Alabama	1,220	1,294	9,314	9,192	1,879	1,871
Arkansas	3,600	3,292	13,565	12,176	1,917	1,955
Georgia	9,046	8,782	18,402	17,423	1,994	2,038
North Carolina	4,878	5,394	12,425	12,609	1,988	2,086
All Other States ²	255,895	253,012	284,958	281,797	2,217	2,241
United States	274,639	271,774	338,664	333,197	2,175	2,204

¹Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ²Tennessee included in other states.

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters)
As of August 1, Crop Years 2006-2009 by Crop, State, and United States**

Crop and State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2006	2007 ¹	2008	2009
Upland				
TX	23,250		13,050	5,150
US	23,250		13,050	5,150

¹Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.