



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Crop Production Cotton Ginnings Prices Received Grain Stocks

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State Bounces Back from 2007 Drought

All of the State's major crops during 2008 showed significant increases in yields from the previous, drought-stricken year, according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. Cool, wet conditions, which caused planting delays during the spring months of 2008, changed drastically by early summer as a warm, dry pattern set in across the State. This was the second consecutive year that drought conditions posed significant challenges to Volunteer State farmers. Ideal weather conditions occurred in some areas; however, as the cotton crop produced the second highest yield on record. State Director Debra Kenerson noted that, "Despite a persistent dry pattern in many areas lasting from early summer to early fall, most farmers were able to produce yields above levels in 2007 and, in many areas, above average."

Tennessee's **cotton** production is estimated at 535,000 bales, down only 11 percent from 2007 despite 230,000 less harvested acres. The State's final yield averaged 917 pounds of lint per acre, up 352 pounds from the previous year and second only to 2004's record yield of 945 pounds. Producers planted 285,000 and harvested 280,000 acres, both down 230,000 from 2007. Cotton acreage declined sharply due to declines in our major producing counties, such as Haywood and Gibson, where farmers had alternative planting choices. Harvest was wrapped up on schedule by the middle of November.

Corn for grain production is estimated at 74.3 million bushels, down 11 percent from 2007. The final yield, at 118 bushels per acre, was up 12 bushels from the year earlier. Tennessee corn producers planted 690,000 acres during 2008, down 170,000 from a year earlier. Harvested area for grain was 630,000 acres with 55,000 acres for silage. A wet period during May delayed planting somewhat, but most farmers finished by the end of the month. A dry pattern set in during the summer, however, causing the crop to mature slower than normal. Harvest was completed by the end of November. Silage yield, at 15.0 tons per acre, was up 4.0 tons from 2007, with production totaling 825,000 tons. Grain sorghum production in 2008 is estimated at 2.00 million bushels, up 63 percent from 2007. Area harvested for grain, at 22,000 acres, was up 7,000 acres from 2007, while average yield, at 91 bushels per acre, was up 9 bushels from the year earlier.

Soybean production is estimated at 49.6 million bushels, more than double from the year earlier and the highest since 1982. This change marks the largest one year increase in production since records began in 1924. The State's final soybean yield is estimated at 34 bushels per acre, up 15 bushels from the previous year. Producers planted 1,490,000 acres and harvested 1,460,000 acres for beans, both up significantly from the previous year. As of June 1, 72 percent of the soybean acreage had been planted, with only double-cropped beans following wheat harvest remaining. By August, soybean development progressed at a normal pace with conditions rated mostly fair-to-good. Tennessee went several weeks into August without rain, but Tropical Storm Fay brought widespread precipitation by month's end. Timely rains, plus moderate temperatures, contributed to improved yields over last year. Through November 16, 95 percent of the crop had been harvested, compared with 87 percent for the five-year average.

Burley tobacco growers produced 24.7 million pounds, up 19 percent from 2007. The State's final burley yields averaged 1,900 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds from a year earlier and the largest one year increase since 1990. Growers harvested 13,000 acres, unchanged from the previous year. Harvest of the crop was nearly wrapped-up by the end of October, behind the normal pace. Tennessee's dark fire-cured tobacco yields are estimated at 3,200 pounds, up 600 pounds from 2007. Dark air-cured yields are estimated at 2,900 pounds per acre, up 700 pounds from a year earlier.

Total **wheat** acreage for 2009 is forecast at 380,000 acres, down 240,000 acres from 2008. Despite a lack of fall rains, winter wheat planting was underway by the first week of October with 6 percent of the crop seeded by the 5th. By October 19, only a fifth of the expected crop was sown, with farmers waiting on rain to help germination. By the end of the month, farmers had just over half of the acreage seeded, with a fifth of the acreage emerged. Through November 17, 89 percent of the winter wheat was sown and 59 percent had emerged.

Hay production, at 3.89 million tons, was up 48 percent from the 2007 crop. Hay acreage, at 1,850,000 acres, was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Alfalfa production, at 60,000 tons, was unchanged from 2007. Alfalfa producers harvested 20,000 acres with a yield of 3.00 tons per acre, up 0.60 ton from the previous year. Growers seeded 2,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2008, down 5,000 from the year earlier. Spring provided plenty of moisture to jumpstart pastures and hayfields and caused optimism for a good hay year. However, the weather turned hot and dry during the summer, leaving many pastures and hay fields with serious moisture deficits. There were some second cuttings, but production was generally shorter than normal. The number of acres cut increased as producers sought to overcome the extremely low hay stocks coming out of the winter. Stocks of hay stored on Tennessee farms totaled 3.04 million tons on December 1, 2008, up 43 percent from 2007. Stocks represented 77 percent of this year's production, compared with 79 percent on December 1, 2007.

Crop Estimates: Tennessee and United States, 2008, with Comparisons

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples ¹	lb.	---	---	---	---	100	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	790	630	106	118	83,740	74,340
Corn for silage	ton	55	55	11	15	605	825
Cotton ²	lb.	510	280	565	917	600	535
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	203	179
Hay, All	ton	1,775	1,870	1.51	2.11	2,685	3,945
Other	ton	1,750	1,850	1.50	2.10	2,625	3,885
Alfalfa	ton	25	20	2.40	3.00	60	60
Peaches ¹	ton	---	---	---	---	0 ³	1.90
Sorghum for grain	bu.	15	22	82	91	1,230	2,002
Sorghum for silage	ton	2	1	7	14	14	14
Soybeans	bu.	1,010	1,460	19	34	19,190	49,640
Tobacco, All	lb.	19.98	21.80	1,934	2,403	38,636	52,380
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.20	7.20	2,600	3,200	16,120	23,040
Burley	lb.	13.00	13.00	1,600	1,900	20,800	24,700
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.78	1.60	2,200	2,900	1,716	4,640
Winter Wheat	bu.	260	520	41	63	10,660	32,760
United States							
Apples ¹	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,089,400	9,242,200
Corn for grain	bu.	86,520	78,640	150.7	153.9	13,037,875	12,101,238
Corn for silage	ton	6,060	5,965	17.5	18.7	106,229	111,619
Cotton ²	lb.	10,489.1	7,728.4	879	810	19,206.9	13,035.6
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	6,588.7	4,429.0
Hay, All	ton	61,006	60,062	2.41	2.43	146,901	145,672
Other	ton	39,880	39,082	1.93	1.95	77,021	76,052
Alfalfa	ton	21,126	20,980	3.31	3.32	69,880	69,620
Peaches ¹	ton	---	---	---	---	1,127	1,094
Sorghum for grain	bu.	6,792	7,271	73.2	65.0	497,445	472,342
Sorghum for silage	ton	392	408	13.4	13.8	5,246	5,646
Soybeans	bu.	64,146	74,641	41.7	39.6	2,677,117	2,959,174
Tobacco, All	lb.	356.0	354.2	2,213	2,260	787,653	800,527
Dark fire-cured	lb.	14.6	18.6	2,801	3,344	40,888	62,190
Burley	lb.	106.3	97.2	2,033	2,068	216,087	201,020
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.98	8.50	2,622	2,981	13,056	25,340
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,938	39,614	41.7	47.2	1,499,241	1,867,903

¹Forecast. Preliminary data to be released January 23, 2009. ²Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton. ³No significant commercial production due to freeze damage.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to January 1, Crop Years 2005-2008

	Running Bales Ginned			
	2005	2006	2007	2008
All Cotton				
AL	802,000	633,250	387,550	439,800
AZ	462,000	391,850	370,650	308,600
AR	2,098,650	2,410,000	1,807,150	1,236,050
CA	1,401,250	1,180,450	1,193,200	706,350
FL	111,200	139,650	101,700	104,650
GA	1,976,450	2,075,450	1,546,300	1,502,000
KS	70,400	78,400	40,600	24,200
LA	1,105,650	1,255,500	695,800	279,600
MS	2,089,000	2,029,000	1,271,150	656,100
MO	864,400	966,600	785,550	698,600
NM	60,350	46,800	46,700	40,550
NC	1,310,950	1,234,700	763,100	744,300
OK	267,500	165,900	247,850	222,500
SC	372,300	369,800	147,800	231,000
TN	1,082,400	1,265,750	586,600	520,950
TX	5,871,450	4,828,600	5,612,750	3,792,450
VA	161,600	140,150	95,900	103,950
US	20,107,550	19,211,850	15,700,350	11,611,650

Prices Received: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 133 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 8 points (5.7 percent) from November. The Crop Index is down 11 points (7.1 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 4 points (3.2 percent). Producers received lower prices for cattle, corn, milk, and soybeans and higher prices for broilers, strawberries, lettuce, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of wheat, milk, broilers, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cattle, and grapes.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 9 points (6.3 percent) from December 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 132, decreased 7 points (5.0 percent) from last month and decreased 14 points (9.6 percent) from December 2007.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., December 2008 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		December 2007	November ¹ 2008	December ² 2008	December 2007	November ¹ 2008	December ² 2008
Dollars Per Unit							
Field Crops							
Corn	bu.	4.10	4.34	4.30	3.77	4.26	4.05
Cotton Lint	lb.	.544	.600	.452 ³	.596	.531	.539 ³
Sorghum	cwt.	7.83	4.46	n/a	6.92	6.57	5.26
Soybeans	bu.	10.93	9.13	8.75	10.00	9.38	8.97
Winter Wheat	bu.	6.65	⁴	n/a	7.70	5.64	5.06
Livestock							
All beef cattle	cwt.	71.80	65.20	61.00	89.20	84.90	79.90
Steers/heifers	cwt.	91.00	80.00	75.00	95.30	91.00	85.70
Cows	cwt.	43.00	43.00	40.00	45.00	43.10	39.80
Calves	cwt.	102.00	83.00	78.00	120.00	106.00	101.00

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

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., December 1, 2007-2008 with Comparisons

	Tennessee			United States		
	Dec 1, 2007	Sept 1, 2008	Dec 1, 2008	Dec 1, 2007	Sept 1, 2008	Dec 1, 2008
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks ¹						
Corn				6,530,000	499,950	6,482,000
Wheat				289,540	635,700	454,000
Soybeans				1,128,500	47,000	1,189,000
Grain Sorghum				51,400	3,550	54,400
Oats				43,100	52,800	42,600
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	24,587	1,993	17,547	3,748,085	1,124,200	3,602,467
Wheat	8,388	12,451	10,682	842,398	1,222,243	968,224
Soybeans	4,665	170	7,969	1,231,860	158,034	1,086,593
Grain Sorghum	³	³	542	239,850	49,200	257,351
Oats	50	78	³	51,331	66,296	72,278
Total Stocks ¹						
Corn				10,278,085	1,624,150	10,084,467
Wheat				1,131,938	1,858,123	1,422,224
Soybeans				2,360,360	205,034	2,275,593
Grain Sorghum				291,250	52,750	311,751
Oats				94,431	119,096	114,878

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. ³ Not published to avoid disclosures of individual operations.