



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Wheat Production Prices Received Chicken & Eggs Livestock Slaughter
Farm Labor Tobacco County Estimates

June 12, 2008

Tennessee Wheat Yield Forecast at 60 Bushels

Tennessee's 2008 winter wheat production is forecast at 29.4 million bushels, up slightly from a month earlier and the highest output since 1982, according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. The State's average yield is forecast at 60 bushels per acre, up 19 bushels from 2007 and the second highest on record. Fueled by high prices, Tennessee farmers seeded 620,000 acres last fall, 200,000 more than the previous year and the third consecutive increase in acreage after 5 straight years of decline. Wheat producers expect to harvest 490,000 acres for grain, 230,000 more than a year ago. The remaining 130,000 acres were used as a cover crop, will be harvested for hay or silage, or were abandoned. As of June 1, seventy-two percent of the wheat had turned color with only one percent of the acreage ripe, almost a week behind the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition and harvest is expected to begin within the next week.

U.S. Winter Wheat Production Up 20 Percent

Winter Wheat production is forecast at 1.82 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and up 20 percent from 2007. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from the previous forecast and up 3.1 bushels from last year. Grain area totals 40.2 million acres, unchanged from last month. As of June 1, heading had reached 75 percent in the 18 major States, 9 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Progress was behind normal due primarily to below normal temperatures throughout the growing season. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the growing area.

Winter wheat acreage reached the heading stage for more than one-fourth of the crop by early May and progressed 10 to 15 points during each week of the month. By month's end, three-fourths of the acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, 9 points behind average. Developmental delays existed in most of the winter wheat States. In Nebraska, heading was 39 points behind the 5-year average pace. Montana's wheat crop faced major delays with none of the acres heading by month's end. South Dakota's crop was also delayed with only 4 percent of the acreage at or beyond the heading stage, 53 and 37 points behind last year and normal, respectively.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., June 1, 2008 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	700	840	41.0	56.0	28,700	47,040
Georgia	230	350	40.0	55.0	9,200	19,250
Kentucky	250	450	49.0	69.0	12,250	31,050
Mississippi	330	425	56.0	57.0	18,480	24,225
Missouri	880	1,120	43.0	54.0	37,840	60,480
North Carolina	500	700	40.0	53.0	20,000	37,100
TENNESSEE	260	490	41.0	60.0	10,660	29,400
Virginia	205	250	64.0	66.0	13,120	16,500
United States	35,952	40,162	42.2	45.3	1,515,989	1,817,364

¹ 2008 forecast, 2007 final.

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

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		May 2007 ¹	April 2008 ¹	May 2008 ²	May 2007 ¹	April 2008 ¹	May 2008 ²
Dollars Per Unit							
Crops							
Corn	bu.	3.94	5.78	5.85	3.49	5.15	5.12
Cotton Lint	lb.	.441	.560	.560 ³	.440	.621	.607 ³
Sorghum	cwt.	4	4	n/a	6.49	9.30	9.18
Soybeans	bu.	7.20	12.20	12.70	7.12	12.00	12.30
Winter Wheat	bu.	4	4	n/a	4.77	9.61	7.76
Livestock							
All beef cattle	cwt.	80.20	74.00	77.20	92.80	86.60	90.50
Steers/heifers	cwt.	101.00	90.00	94.00	98.10	91.60	95.40
Cows	cwt	49.00	50.00	52.00	51.70	50.50	53.10
Calves	cwt.	113.00	101.00	102.00	124.00	116.00	116.00

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.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During April 2007 and 2008

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,206	1,256	9,248	9,436	1,881	1,855
Arkansas	4,465	3,586	14,439	13,894	1,925	1,893
Georgia	9,815	9,106	19,593	18,940	2,042	2,006
North Carolina	4,182	5,000	12,075	12,700	1,988	2,024
All Other States ²	260,517	256,518	290,223	286,189	2,198	2,204
United States	280,185	275,466	345,578	341,159	2,162	2,164

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

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, April 2007 and 2008

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	1.7	2.5	1,469	2,120	886	874
Calves	0.1	0.1	40	33	450	442
Hogs	42.4	48.4	20,339	23,309	480	482
Sheep & lambs	1.2	1.1	92	84	76	76
United States						
Cattle	2,701.4	2,959.6	3,324,065	3,714,432	1,235	1,259
Calves	56.9	73.3	19,691	20,128	348	278
Hogs	8,466.9	9,994.7	2,284,838	2,690,031	270	269
Sheep & lambs	216.6	221.4	29,941	30,609	138	138

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

Hired Workers Down 7 Percent, Wage Rates up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 919,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 2008, down 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 700,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 219,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.60 per hour during the April 2008 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.65 per hour, up 30 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.32 per hour compared with \$9.59 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.87 per hour, was up 45 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Burley Tobacco: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, by County, 2006-2007

District and County	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Acres		Pounds		Pounds	
Henry	440	380	2,275	1,590	1,000,000	605,000
Other ²	90	20	2,220	1,500	200,000	30,000
District 20	530	400	2,265	1,590	1,200,000	635,000
Hickman	100	³	2,300	³	230,000	³
Montgomery	490	460	2,470	1,650	1,210,000	760,000
Robertson	900	770	2,430	1,850	2,185,000	1,423,000
Other ²	330	270	1,925	1,545	635,000	417,000
District 30	1,820	1,500	2,340	1,735	4,260,000	2,600,000
Clay	260	260	2,190	1,655	570,000	430,000
Jackson	130	130	2,230	1,730	290,000	225,000
Lincoln	145	130	2,070	1,500	300,000	195,000
Macon	3,900	4,000	2,180	1,530	8,500,000	6,115,000
Maury	100	³	2,000	³	200,000	³
Smith	600	620	2,250	1,800	1,350,000	1,115,000
Sumner	600	560	2,000	1,225	1,200,000	685,000
Trousdale	350	340	2,100	1,675	735,000	570,000
Wilson	100	³	2,080	³	208,000	³
Other ²	145	260	1,805	1,520	262,000	395,000
District 40	6,330	6,300	2,150	1,545	13,615,000	9,730,000
Pickett	170	155	2,205	1,560	375,000	242,000
Other ²	270	145	1,835	1,745	495,000	253,000
District 50	440	300	1,975	1,650	870,000	495,000
Bradley	180	160	2,195	1,220	395,000	195,000
Claiborne	550	550	2,400	2,000	1,320,000	1,100,000
Cocke	140	³	2,215	³	310,000	³
Grainger	200	170	1,975	1,705	395,000	290,000
Greene	800	800	2,320	1,875	1,855,000	1,500,000
Hamblen	170	170	1,940	1,590	330,000	270,000
Hancock	150	³	2,200	³	330,000	³
Hawkins	950	950	2,125	1,295	2,020,000	1,230,000
Jefferson	300	250	2,235	1,900	670,000	475,000
Johnson	150	140	2,200	1,500	330,000	210,000
McMinn	200	250	1,925	1,160	385,000	290,000
Monroe	130	100	1,960	1,240	255,000	124,000
Sullivan	150	100	2,135	1,720	320,000	172,000
Washington	550	550	2,545	1,735	1,400,000	955,000
Other ²	260	310	2,075	1,705	540,000	529,000
District 60	4,880	4,500	2,225	1,630	10,855,000	7,340,000
State Total	14,000	13,000	2,200	1,600	30,800,000	20,800,000

¹Yield derived to nearest 5 pounds. ²Unlisted counties combined with "Other" counties to avoid disclosing individual operations. ³Combined with "Other" counties to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Dark Tobacco, by Types: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, by County, 2006-2007

District and County	Area Harvested		Yield ¹		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Acres		Pounds		Pounds	
Dark Fire-Cured (Class 2)						
Henry	400	520	3,550	3,075	1,420,000	1,600,000
Other ²	20	30	3,500	3,165	70,000	95,000
District 20	420	550	3,550	3,080	1,490,000	1,695,000
Cheatham	460	500	3,110	2,580	1,430,000	1,290,000
Dickson	420	500	3,000	2,540	1,260,000	1,270,000
Montgomery	1,200	1,450	3,335	2,330	4,000,000	3,380,000
Robertson	2,400	2,700	3,160	2,580	7,580,000	6,965,000
Stewart	340	³	3,000	³	1,020,000	³
Other ²	20	450	2,900	3,000	58,000	1,350,000
District 30	4,840	5,600	3,170	2,545	15,348,000	14,255,000
Other Districts ³	40	50	3,050	3,400	122,000	170,000
State Total	5,300	6,200	3,200	2,600	16,960,000	16,120,000
Dark Air-Cured (Class 3B)						
Robertson	360	575	2,680	2,155	965,000	1,240,000
Other ²	60	140	2,765	2,355	166,000	330,000
District 30	420	715	2,695	2,195	1,131,000	1,570,000
Other Districts ³	80	65	3,050	2,245	244,000	146,000
State Total	500	780	2,750	2,200	1,375,000	1,716,000
All Tobacco						
State Total ⁴	19,800	19,980	2,482	1,934	49,135,000	38,636,000

¹ Yield derived to nearest 5 pounds, except all tobacco to the nearest pound. ² Unlisted counties combined with "Other" counties to avoid disclosing individual operations. ³ No individual districts or counties published. ⁴ Includes burley.