United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

State's Crops Bake in Relentless August Heat

Farmers across the State of Tennessee watched helplessly during August, as already drought-stressed crops endured record heat and dryness. Crops and pastures baked in what the National Weather Service indicated was the hottest, driest August for the State since records began. As of the first week of September, most of Tennessee was in the extreme to exceptional drought categories. The State's soybean crop was hit especially hard. Debra Kenerson, Director for the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, described the situation as follows, "On August 1, just one month ago, the soybean crop had good potential but the lack of rain and high temperatures lowered yield prospects by 9 bushels." The September forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 100 bushels per acre, down 25 bushels from 2006; **Cotton,** 815 pounds per acre, down 130 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans,** 24 bushels per acre, down 15 bushels from the previous year; and **Burley Tobacco,** 1,700 pounds per acre, down 500 pounds from last year.

Cotton Production Down Sharply

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 840,000 bales, down 39 percent from last year's record level and the lowest since 2002. Cotton yields are expected to average 815 pounds per acre, down 14 percent from a year ago and the lowest since 2003. Producers expect to harvest 495,000 acres, down 200,000 acres from 2006. The cotton crop needed just one or two good rains in August to be on track for another excellent year. The lack of rain, coupled with record high temperatures, however, stressed plants and led to abnormally early development. As of the week ending September 9, the crop was a full three weeks ahead of its usual 5-year development and was rated in mostly fair condition. By late August, defoliation was underway and harvest had begun on a limited basis.

Soybean Production Lowest Since 1999

Tennessee's soybean production is forecast as 25.2 million bushels, down 43 percent from 2006 and the lowest since 1999. Soybeans yields are expected to average 24 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels from last month's projection and 15 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.05 million acres, down 80,000 from a year ago. As of the week ending September 9, two-thirds of the State's soybeans were rated in poor to very poor condition, the lowest crop condition rating since records began in 1985. This year's trouble is similar to the drought in 1999, as the month of August was virtually rain free. Unlike that year, however, the State also experienced one of the hottest months on record. Through September 9, virtually the entire crop was setting pods, over 60 percent were dropping leaves, and harvest had begun in a few areas.

Corn Harvest Production up 25 Percent

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 78.0 million bushels, up 25 percent from a year ago. Corn yields are expected to average 100 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month, but 25 bushels below 2006. Producers expect to harvest 780,000 acres for grain, up 56 percent from last year and the highest since 1985. With the recent dry weather, harvest is in full swing. As of the week ending September 9, nearly three-fourths of the grain crop had been combined, two weeks ahead of the normal pace.

Burley Production Lowest Since 1922

As of September 1, burley production is forecast at 20.4 million pounds, down 19 percent from last month and 34 percent below a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest level since 1922. Tobacco growers are expecting burley yields to average 1,700 pounds per acre, down 500 pounds from last year and the lowest since 1995. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 12,000 acres, down 2,000 from 2006. Tobacco harvest has been slightly ahead of schedule as the drought conditions have led to acres being cut before normal maturity. Just over 60 percent of the crop was in curing structures on September 9. Virtually the entire burley crop had been topped. 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 2,300 pounds per acre, down 450 pounds from 2006.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, September 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	780	125	100	62,500	78,000
Cotton[1]	lb.	695	495	945	815	1,368	840
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,800	1,860	2.30	1.50	4,140	2,790
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1.9	[2]
Soybeans	bu.	1,130	1,050	39	24	44,070	25,200
Tobacco, All	lb.	19.80	19.05	2,482	2,056	49,135	39,175
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.30	6.40	3,200	2,700	16,960	17,280
Burley	lb.	14.00	12.00	2,200	1,700	30,800	20,400
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.50	0.65	2,750	2,300	1,375	1,495
Winter Wheat	bu.	190	300	64	39	12,160	11,700
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,931,700	9,284,700
Corn for grain	bu.	70,648	85,418	149.1	155.8	10,534,868	13,307,999
Cotton[1]	lb.	12,731.5	10,543.0	814	811	21,587.8	17,812.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,423	40,388	1.78	1.87	70,000	75,347
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1,010.1	1,026.9
Soybeans	bu.	74,602	63,265	42.7	41.4	3,188,247	2,618,796
Tobacco, All	lb.	338.9	355.07	2,144	2,023	726,644	718,375
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.85	13.30	3,324	2,826	39,392	37,580
Burley	lb.	103.6	105.2	2,095	1,878	217,085	197,540
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.30	4.65	3,059	2,644	13,155	12,295
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,117	37,188	41.7	41.3	1,298,081	1,537,262

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

USDA to Examine Farmers' Production Practices and Costs

NASHVILLE, September 11, 2007 - How are local farmers being affected by changing agricultural trends and increased input costs? What new production practices are they using to assure a healthy environment and an abundant crop? These and other important questions will be answered when the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts the 2007 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

"ARMS is USDA's primary source of information on the production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America's farm households," said Debra Kenerson, Director of the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). From October to December, NASS will interview nearly 4,500 farm operators nationwide, including approximately 150 in Tennessee. They will be asked to provide information on their fertilizer, nutrient and pesticide applications, as well as their pest management and irrigation practices. "During this phase of ARMS, we focus on production practices and costs. This year, we are looking at cotton," said Kenerson. "In early 2008, we will follow up with some producers to obtain additional economic data."

The importance of this survey cannot be underestimated, according to Kenerson. "Virtually every federal farm program and policy is based on ARMS data," she said. "Conservation programs, price support programs, risk management programs, and research programs all rely on information generated through this survey. That's why it's so important that farmers take the time to participate and ensure that we have the most accurate and up-to-date information, straight from the source." For more information on NASS surveys and reports, contact the NASS Tennessee Field Office at 800-626-0897.

Agricultural Exports

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) publishes estimates of U.S. agricultural export contributions by states on a fiscal year basis (October 1-September 30). These estimates are prepared by major commodity groups and usually are based on the assumption that, for each commodity, a state contributes the same export share as its share of production. However, where obvious distortions exist, this procedure is amended. To keep data manageable, ERS limits exports only to states that collectively account for 90 percent of a given commodity's output. They also assume that a state would export only if it had an apparent surplus. They further assume that, although this method could eliminate some exporting states, it is more likely that large exporters would be sufficiently credited. Thus, for Tennessee, ERS no longer publishes estimates for nuts, rice, peanuts, or sunflowers, and no allowance is made for them in the "other" category.

Agricultural Exports: Tennessee and United States, 2005-2006

Commodity	Tennessee		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	Million Dollars			
Soybeans & Products	119.3	114.7	8,805.8	8,296.1
Tobacco, Unmanufactured	85.9	63.5	988.4	1,058.3
Cotton & Linters	176.2	290.5	3,879.5	4,676.4
Cottonseed & Products	4.6	7.4	97.0	123.7
Wheat & Products	72.2	64.4	5,886.3	6,187.4
Feed Grains & Products	45.4	48.6	6,968.4	8,689.7
Live Animals & Meat, Excluding Poultry	49.9	51.6	4,922.6	5,841.9
Fats, Oils, & Greases	0.9	0.6	479.4	478.0
Poultry & Products	46.1	46.8	3,028.7	2,986.1
Hides & Skins	1.1	1.1	1,748.1	1,977.5
Vegetables & Preparations	8.4	8.0	3,631.9	3,905.1
Dairy Products	10.9	10.5	1,744.5	1,819.6
Fruits & Preparations [1]	0.5	0.5	4,099.5	4,585.2
Feeds & Fodders	33.5	37.8	2,210.6	2,492.8
Seeds	10.7	6.7	916.3	876.8
Other [2 3]	155.0	170.8	13,109.3	14,725.8
All Commodities [4]	820.5	923.5	62,516.2	68,720.6

[1] Apples, apple juice, and apple products, as well as other misc. fruits assumed to equal the previous year; current year production data is not released until July or later. [2] Includes sugar and tropical products, minor oilseeds, essential oils, beverages other than juice, nursery and greenhouse, wine and misc. vegetable products. [3] U.S. "Other" also includes rice, sunflower seed and oil, peanuts and products, and tree nuts. 4 Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: *Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S.*, USDA, ERS, July 2007.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to September 15, Crop Years 2004-2007

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
All Cotton				
AL	[1]	[1]	3,650	4,300
AZ	25,250	12,800	13,550	12,900
AR	[1]	6,800	39,550	12,050
GA	12,800	[1]	7,400	[1]
LA	4,350	51,700	123,800	850
MS	13,200	19,350	195,500	4,150
Tennessee	0	[1]	[1]	7,850
TX	1,099,950	868,300	610,500	293,600
US	1,156,550	976,050	995,650	374,650

[1] Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

Livestock Slaughter[1]: Tennessee & United States, August 2006 and 2007

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	1.2	2.2	1,104	1,958	951	913
Calves	0.1	0.1	43	35	417	429
Hogs	55.9	57.6	26,639	27,041	477	470
Sheep & lambs	1.3	1.2	97	93	77	75
United States						
Cattle	3,134.4	3,131.9	3,985,807	3,993,778	1,276	1,279
Calves	66.7	65.4	21,325	17,412	322	268
Hogs	9,095.7	9,394.6	2,380,908	2,470,994	262	263
Sheep & lambs	227.1	227.5	29,160	29,203	129	129

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

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During August 2006 and 2007

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers [1]		Eggs per 100 for All Layers [1]	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,512	1,155	8,615	9,014	1,962	1,941
Arkansas	4,261	4,161	13,988	13,803	1,966	2,000
Georgia	9,595	9,464	19,356	19,190	2,087	2,048
North Carolina	3,363	4,550	10,945	12,204	2,047	2,081
All Other States[2]	259,750	255,513	288,636	285,260	2,278	2,268
United States	278,481	274,843	341,540	339,471	2,239	2,229

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