



# Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

September Crop Production Cotton Ginnings Livestock Slaughter  
Layers & Eggs Agriculture Exports TDA News Release

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## Fall Crop Forecast Remains Very Good

The State's major row crops were supported with unusual August weather that featured plentiful rainfall and moderate temperatures. This surprising combination kept crops on pace to reach the good-to-excellent potential forecasted a month ago. Debra Kenerson, State Director, stated, "All forecasts are based on the assumption of normal weather and freeze dates for the remainder of the crop year. This is especially critical this year due to the late start for large production areas of the state." The September forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 135 bushels per acre, up 17 bushels from 2008; **Cotton**, 960 pounds per acre, up 51 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 40 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from the previous year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 2,000 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from last year.

### Record Cotton Yield Projected

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 560,000 bales, up 6 percent from last year. Cotton yields are expected to average 960 pounds per acre, up 51 pounds from the previous year, and if realized, a new state record. The current state record yield of 945 pounds per acre was set in 2006. Producers expect to harvest 280,000 acres, unchanged from 2008. The cotton crop potential remains very good despite the continued lateness of the crop. Overall crop development is one week to ten days behind the five year average pace. The crop has had ample moisture but could use more heat units and sunshine. The crop is rated in mostly good to excellent condition.

### Highest Soybean Production in 30 Years

Soybean production is forecast at 62.4 million bushels, up 26 percent from last year, and the highest since 1979. Soybean yields are forecast at 40 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above 2008, and the third highest on record. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.56 million acres, up 100,000 from a year ago. Moderate temperatures and consistent rainfall have aided crop growth during most of August helping soybeans set and fill pods. Some counties have reported cases of Sudden Death Syndrome and a few cases of armyworms, but overall disease and insect pressure has been light despite weather conditions favorable to both. Producers are still hoping for a late frost, and the crop could use another shower. As of the first of September, over ninety percent of the crop was setting pods. The crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition.

### Corn Yields Improve from 2008

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 79.7 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 135 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, but 17 bushels above 2008. Farmers expect to harvest 590,000 acres for grain, 40,000 less than last year. Yields are variable but better than average, overall. As of the first of September, nearly all of the state's corn crop had reached the dough stage, with over 80 percent in the dent stage, trailing the normal pace. Over half of the silage acreage has been harvested. Nearly 80 percent of the crop is currently rated in good-to-excellent condition.

### Burley Production up from 2008

As of September 1, burley production is forecast at 26.0 million pounds, 5 percent above a year ago. Yields are forecast to average 2,000 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from 2008. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 13,000 acres, unchanged from 2008. Harvest was in full-swing on September 1 with growers cautiously optimistic. The crop recently topped does need a good rain to develop to expectations, but the earlier cut crop in the barn is curing nicely. An average burley yield and excellent, record-breaking dark tobacco yields are in the works for 2009. (Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1) Producers are about finished topping and have put about half the crop in the barn. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,300 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,900 pounds per acre, both state records.

### Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, September 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	
<b>Tennessee</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	11,100	8,890	10,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	630	590	118	135	74,340	79,650
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	280	280	909	960	530	560
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	2,458	52,380	50,640
Dark fire-cured	lb.	7.2	6.5	3,200	3,300	23,040	21,450
Burley	lb.	13.0	13.0	1,900	2,000	24,700	26,000
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.6	1.1	2,900	2,900	4,640	3,190
Winter Wheat	bu.	520	340	63.0	54.0	32,760	18,360
<b>United States</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,769,300	10,113,000
Corn for grain	bu.	78,640	80,007	153.9	161.9	12,101,238	12,954,500
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	7,569	7,728	813	835	12,815	13,438
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	42.3	2,959,174	3,245,292
Tobacco, All	lb.	354.5	347.2	2,258	2,319	800,504	804,988
Dark fire-cured	lb.	18.6	16.6	3,344	3,293	62,190	54,495
Burley	lb.	97.5	98.8	2,067	2,160	201,530	213,400
Dark air-cured	lb.	8.5	6.1	2,981	3,064	25,340	18,690
Winter Wheat	bu.	39,614	34,787	47.2	44.2	1,867,903	1,537,348

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

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

Crop and State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2006	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2009
<b>Upland</b>				
AL	3,650	4,300	0	0
AZ	13,550	12,900	1	4,250
AR	39,550	12,050	1	0
CA	0	0	0	0
FL	1	1	0	0
GA	7,400	1	1,250	0
LA	123,800	850	4,450	5,850
MS	195,500	4,150	0	1
MO	0	37,800	0	0
NM	0	0	0	1
NC	0	1	0	0
OK	0	0	0	0
SC	0	0	0	0
TN	1	7,850	0	0
TX	610,500	293,600	465,050	164,400
VA	0	0	0	0
US	995,650	374,650	475,550	174,550

<sup>1</sup> Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

**Livestock Slaughter<sup>1</sup>: Tennessee & United States, August 2008 and 2009**

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
<b>Tennessee</b>						
Cattle	2.4	2.6	2,001	2,209	853	865
Calves	0.1	2 <sub>2</sub>	49	2 <sub>2</sub>	471	2 <sub>2</sub>
Hogs	51.6	69.2	24,224	31,775	471	461
Sheep & lambs	1.2	1.4	89	100	78	74
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,908.3	2,781.9	3,723,750	3,587,090	1,284	1,293
Calves	79.2	76.7	19,148	17,772	245	234
Hogs	9,263.7	9,337.0	2,414,624	2,499,544	261	268
Sheep & lambs	200.2	202.9	26,445	26,668	132	132

<sup>1</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter). <sup>2</sup> States with no data printed are still included in US total, data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Number	Number
Alabama	1,389	1,227	9,363	9,006	1,922	1,954
Arkansas	3,695	3,380	12,972	11,873	2,043	2,080
Georgia	9,141	8,611	18,016	17,210	2,065	2,162
North Carolina	4,861	5,523	12,263	12,578	2,104	2,091
All Other States <sup>2</sup>	253,915	253,368	282,651	281,629	2,291	2,319
United States	273,001	272,109	335,265	332,296	2,252	2,284

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

**Agricultural Exports: Tennessee and United States, 2007-2008**

Commodity	Tennessee		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Million Dollars			
Soybeans & Products	79.1	324.3	11,028.2	19,331.9
Tobacco, Unmanufactured	53.8	58.5	1,143.5	1,279.8
Cotton & Linters	131.5	193.4	4,304.9	4,782.2
Cottonseed & Products	5.1	8.4	165.5	213.5
Wheat & Products	87.8	225.1	8,681.9	14,836.0
Feed Grains & Products	71.3	105.2	11,835.9	18,147.5
Live Animals & Meat,				
Excluding Poultry	47.7	63.9	6,800.0	9,454.6
Fats, Oils, & Greases	1.4	1.7	748.4	1,070.2
Poultry & Products	58.1	74.8	3,777.1	4,922.4
Hides & Skins	1.4	1.6	2,156.0	2,128.4
Vegetables & Preparations	8.7	10.7	4,298.5	5,160.2
Dairy Products <sup>1</sup>	4.4	5.9	2,522.1	4,099.1
Fruits & Preparations <sup>2</sup>	0.0	0.6	5,030.6	5,925.7
Feeds & Fodders	26.0	45.0	2,887.8	3,988.6
Seeds	8.2	14.7	933.1	1,194.8
Other <sup>3,4</sup>	186.3	221.8	11,176.3	12,681.1
All Commodities <sup>5</sup>	770.6	1,355.6	82,363.7	115,451.5

<sup>1</sup> Methodology revised starting in 2007 to estimate shares based on sales production of cheese, butter, dry whey, ice cream and sherbet. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Includes sugar and tropical products, minor oilseeds, essential oils, beverages other than juice, nursery and greenhouse, wine and misc. vegetable products. <sup>4</sup> U.S. "Other" also includes rice, sunflower seed and oil, peanuts and products, and tree nuts. <sup>5</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding. Source: *Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S.*, USDA, ERS, July 2009.

## **TDA Now Accepting Water Quality Grant Proposals**

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is now accepting grant proposals for projects that will help improve water quality and reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution. The deadline for submitting grant proposals is Dec. 1. Proposals will be evaluated based on program goals and objectives, performance evaluation criteria and applicable EPA Nonpoint Source grant guidelines.

“The purpose of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program is to make a measurable difference in water quality by reducing runoff of sediment, nutrients and other pollutants,” said state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. “This is a great opportunity for local governments and agencies to work with the department in addressing water quality problems and to improve water stewardship in both urban and rural areas.”

Local governments, regional agencies, public institutions, private nonprofit organizations and other state agencies are eligible to apply for federal dollars administered by TDA’s Water Resources office. Priority is given to projects that seek to make measurable improvements to waters known to be impaired by nonpoint source pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution is soil, urban runoff, fertilizers, chemicals and other contaminants that come from many different sources and degrades surface and groundwater quality. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation assesses water quality and compiles a list of impaired waters. This information is described in that department’s 2008 303(d) list, which can be found online at: [http://www.TN.gov/environment/wpc/publications/2008\\_303d.pdf](http://www.TN.gov/environment/wpc/publications/2008_303d.pdf).

Other priorities for funding include water quality related educational programs, projects that implement an approved Total Maximum Daily Load in a watershed area and projects that reduce urban runoff.

The FY 2009 Request for Proposals can be found online at <http://www.TN.gov/agriculture/water/nps.html>, or for more information contact TDA’s Nonpoint Pollution Program at 615-837-5306 or [Sam.Marshall@TN.gov](mailto:Sam.Marshall@TN.gov).