



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

September Crop Production Agricultural Exports Livestock Slaughter Layers & Eggs
Cotton Ginnings Farm Production Expenditures

September 30, 2008

USDA Updates 2008 Crop Forecast

The State's cotton crop benefited during August from timely rainfall and appears it will reach the potential forecasted a month ago. The remnants of Tropical Storm Fay moved through the State near the end of the month and brought significant rains that were a boost to the cotton crop, and also aided pastures and double-cropped soybeans. Debra Kenerson, State Director, added, "The degree to which yields respond as a result of this rainfall is still unclear, given how late in the growing season it arrived." The September forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 115 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from 2007; **Cotton**, 806 pounds per acre, up 241 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 30 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from the previous year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds from last year.

Tennessee's **cotton** production is forecast at 470,000 bales, down only 22 percent from last year's production of 600,000 bales despite a 45 percent drop in acreage. Cotton yields are expected to average 806 pounds per acre, up 241 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 280,000 acres, down 230,000 acres from 2007. Cotton yields are better than expected last month, as the crop responded positively to the late-August rains. As of the first of September, crop development continued to lag behind the normal pace and was more than a week behind the 5-year average. Sixty percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

Soybean production is forecast at 41.4 million bushels, up 137 percent from last year's drought level. Soybean yields are forecast at 30 bushels per acre, 12 bushels above 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1,380 million acres, up 410,000 from a year ago. Widely scattered rainfall last month coupled with moderate temperatures helped to offset the lack of moisture, unlike last year when it was dry and hot. Rain arrived the second half of the month, which aided in the crop's development and condition. As of the first of September, over ninety percent of the crop was setting pods with just over a tenth dropping leaves. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

Tennessee's **corn** production is forecast at 73.6 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 115 bushels per acre, 9 bushels above 2007 but 11 bushels below the 5-year average. Farmers expect to harvest 640,000 acres for grain, 145,000 less than last year. August rains appear to have arrived too late to benefit the State's corn crop. With harvest underway on a very limited basis, yields are highly variable and not as high as earlier anticipated. As of the first of September, virtually the entire corn crop was denting with just over a third mature, well behind the normal pace. Over two-thirds of the silage acreage has been harvested.

As of September 1, **burley** production is forecast at 24.7 million pounds, 19 percent above a year ago. Yields are forecast to average 1,900 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds from 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 13,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. A fair burley and an excellent dark tobacco crop are in the works for 2008, as timely rains on a late transplanted crop have growers very optimistic. In general, growers are looking for a crop similar to 2006. As of the first of September, nearly 90 percent of the crop had been topped and harvest was in full swing. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,200 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre, both well above 2007. (Continued)

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, September 1, 2008, with Comparisons

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	100	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	785	640	106	115	83,210	73,600
Cotton ¹	lb.	510	280	565	806	600	470
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,700	1,800	1.40	2.10	2,380	3,780
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	0 ²	1.90
Soybeans	bu.	970	1,380	18	30	17,460	41,400
Tobacco, All	lb.	19.98	21.80	1,934	2,388	38,636	52,060
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.2	7.2	2,600	3,200	16,120	23,040
Burley	lb.	13.0	13.0	1,600	1,900	20,800	24,700
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.78	1.60	2,200	2,700	1,716	4,320
Winter Wheat	bu.	260	550	41.0	65.0	10,660	35,750
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,113,900	9,165,200
Corn for grain	bu.	86,542	79,290	151.1	152.3	13,073,893	12,072,365
Cotton ¹	lb.	10,489	7,830	879	849	19,207	13,846
Hay, All	ton	61,625	60,439	2.44	2.45	150,304	147,955
Peaches	ton	---	---	8.41	---	1,129	1,094
Soybeans	bu.	62,820	73,341	41.2	40.0	2,585,207	2,933,888
Tobacco, All	lb.	356.0	356.04	2,191	2,289	779,899	814,907
Dark fire-cured	lb.	14.6	18.4	2,855	3,342	41,688	61,490
Burley	lb.	106.3	96.0	1,951	2,050	207,387	196,735
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.98	8.30	2,706	2,942	13,476	24,420
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,952	40,252	42.2	46.6	1,515,989	1,874,857

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

Agricultural Exports: Tennessee and United States, 2006-2007

Commodity	Tennessee		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Million Dollars				
Soybeans & Products	114.0	74.5	8,244.3	11,027.2
Tobacco, Unmanufactured	63.4	55.5	1,058.4	1,143.9
Cotton & Linters	290.6	131.5	4,677.9	4,305.3
Cottonseed & Products	5.8	3.8	97.0	123.7
Wheat & Products	80.0	86.2	6,140.8	8,457.7
Feed Grains & Products	48.6	70.5	8,594.1	11,847.7
Live Animals & Meat, Excluding Poultry	51.7	56.2	5,832.2	6,787.0
Fats, Oils, & Greases	0.6	1.4	477.8	749.1
Poultry & Products	46.3	57.7	2,966.9	3,776.9
Hides & Skins	1.1	1.4	1,978.2	2,159.3
Vegetables & Preparations	7.9	8.1	3,908.6	4,296.7
Dairy Products	3.4	4.4	1,820.2	2,518.0
Fruits & Preparations ¹	0.5	0.0	4,580.3	5,026.3
Feeds & Fodders	37.7	24.1	2,493.2	2,886.1
Seeds	6.5	8.2	870.7	936.3
Other ^{2,3}	168.6	186.7	10,005.8	11,033.5
All Commodities⁴	926.7	770.2	68,592.7	81,947.1

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 2008.

U.S. Slaughter: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.10 billion pounds in August, down 5 percent from the 4.33 billion pounds produced in August 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.91 million head, down 7 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 79,200 head, up 21 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from last year, at 245 pounds. Hog kill totaled 9.27 million head, down 1 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 261 pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,700 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 3 pounds from August a year ago.

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, August 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	2.2	2.4	1,957	2,001	912	853
Calves	0.1	0.1	35	49	429	471
Hogs	57.6	51.5	27,041	24,223	470	471
Sheep & lambs	1.2	1.2	93	89	75	78
United States						
Cattle	3,132.1	2,910.9	3,993,828	3,726,689	1,279	1,284
Calves	65.5	79.2	17,435	19,135	268	245
Hogs	9,394.5	9,267.6	2,470,996	2,415,430	263	261
Sheep & lambs	228.1	200.7	29,314	26,507	129	132

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

U.S. Chicken & Eggs: All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 2008 totaled 335 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 335 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.73 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2008, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from September 1, 2007.

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

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,155	1,389	9,051	9,361	1,945	1,923
Arkansas	4,161	3,695	13,803	13,262	2,000	2,036
Georgia	9,464	9,141	19,190	18,259	2,048	2,070
North Carolina	4,550	4,861	12,204	12,303	2,081	2,105
All Other States ²	256,962	253,172	286,403	281,875	2,268	2,292
United States	276,292	272,258	340,651	335,060	2,229	2,252

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

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to September 15, Crop Years 2005-2008

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2005	2006	2007	2008
All Cotton				
AL ¹		3,650	4,300	0
AZ ¹	12,800	13,550	12,900	
AR ¹	6,800	39,550	12,050	
GA ¹		7,400		1,250
LA	51,700	123,800	850	4,450
MS	19,350	195,500	4,150	0
MO	0	0	37,800	0
Tennessee¹			7,850	
TX	868,300	610,500	293,600	465,050
US	976,050	995,650	374,650	475,550

¹ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

Farm Production Expenditures: Atlantic Region¹ Total, 2003-2007

Expenditure	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Million Dollars				
Total Farm Production Expenses ²	29,570	31,870	29,540	30,850	32,340
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ³	2,550	2,610	2,600	2,740	2,450
Feed	5,780	6,040	5,150	5,270	6,400
Farm Services ⁴	3,630	3,760	3,640	3,870	4,050
Rent ⁵	1,010	1,040	960	950	990
Agricultural Chemicals ⁶	810	850	800	830	930
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁶	1,090	1,190	1,290	1,400	1,500
Interest	1,210	1,100	1,120	1,260	1,430
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	950	1,000	1,210	1,360	1,480
Labor	3,570	3,610	3,190	3,620	3,470
Fuels	920	1,170	1,310	1,460	1,580
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁷	1,750	2,150	1,920	2,010	2,140
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁸	2,250	2,870	2,690	2,590	2,580
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	1,250	1,500	1,080	1,020	1,000
Other Farm Machinery	720	710	620	580	570
Seed and Plants ⁹	1,320	1,230	1,170	1,240	1,230
Trucks & Autos	660	870	740	630	490
Miscellaneous Capital Expenses ¹⁰	---	---	50	20	50

¹ Atlantic Region includes the following states, (CT, DE, KY, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, TN, VA, VT, WV). ² Includes landlord and contractor share of farm production expenses. Totals may not add due to rounding. ³ Includes purchases and leasing of livestock and poultry. Edit procedures have been upgraded over the last three years to better identify cattle farm records where not all livestock are owned. These custom feeding operations are now correctly recorded as production contracts, resulting in increased livestock purchases for contractors. ⁴ Includes all crop custom work, veterinary custom services, transportation costs, marketing charges, insurance, leasing of machinery and equipment, general and miscellaneous business expenses, and utilities. ⁵ Includes public and private grazing fees. ⁶ Includes material and application costs. ⁷ Includes bedding and litter, marketing containers, power farm shop equipment, oils and lubricants, miscellaneous non-capital equipment and supplies, repairs and maintenance of livestock and poultry equipment, and capital equipment for livestock and poultry. ⁸ Includes all expenditures related to new construction or repairs of buildings, fences, operator dwelling (if dwelling is owned by operation), and any improvements to physical structures of land. ⁹ Excludes bedding plants, nursery stock, and seed purchased for resale. Includes seed treatment. ¹⁰ A zero in this line-item denotes less than 5 million dollars. Average value derived from expenditure rounding to zero will also be zero. Miscellaneous Capital Expense was estimated for the first time in 2005.