



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

October Crop Production Cotton Ginnings Layers & Eggs  
Milk Production National Weather Summary TDA News Release

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## Cotton Outlook Continues to Improve

Now that the State's cotton harvest has begun, forecasted yields are better than earlier expected. Cotton yield prospects improved for the third consecutive month, increasing 34 pounds per acre from September. Forecasted yields for burley and dark air-cured tobacco also rose from the previous month, while soybeans remained unchanged. Both corn and hay yields dropped from earlier projections. September's weather was mostly dry, except for the remnants of Hurricane Ike, which passed over the western and middle portions of the State mid-month, bringing precipitation and high winds. Wind damage was isolated, however, and the precipitation was greatly needed. The October forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 111 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from 2007; **Cotton**, 840 pounds per acre, up 275 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 30 bushels per acre, up 11 bushels from the previous year; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,950 pounds per acre, up 350 pounds from last year; and **Other Hay**, except alfalfa, 2.0 tons per acre, up 0.6 tons from 2007.

Tennessee's **cotton** production is forecast at 490,000 bales, down only 18 percent from last year's production of 600,000 bales despite a 45 percent drop in acreage. Cotton yields are expected to average 840 pounds per acre, up 275 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 280,000 acres, down 230,000 acres from 2007. Despite dry conditions, the cotton crop was able to put on a heavy boll set. Slightly over four-fifths of the acreage was defoliated as of the week ending October 5. With excellent weather for harvest, combining was progressing on schedule. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

**Soybean** production is forecast at 43.8 billion bushels, up 24.6 million from last year's drought level and, if realized, the largest one year increase since records began in 1924. Soybean yields are forecast at 30 bushels per acre, 11 bushels above 2007. The State's planted acreage was updated and is now estimated at 1.50 million acres. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.46 million acres, up 450,000 from a year ago and, the largest one year acreage increase on record. Despite mostly dry conditions, soybeans maintained their yield potential during the month of September. As of the week ending October 5, eighty percent of the crop was dropping leaves and harvest was only slightly behind the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

Tennessee's **corn** production is forecast at 69.9 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 111 bushels per acre, 5 bushels above 2007 but 4 bushels below the September 1 forecast. The State's planted acreage was updated and is now estimated at 690,000 acres, down 180,000 from last year. Farmers expect to harvest 630,000 acres for grain, 155,000 less than last year. As of the week ending October 5, the entire crop was mature with over 80 percent harvested. Dry weather during the past month allowed for good harvest progress. Corn yields were highly variable across the State depending on when rain was received, especially during the crucial pollination phase. **Sorghum** planted was also updated and is now estimated at 26,000 acres, up 4,000 from 2007. Sorghum for grain harvest is estimated at 23,000 acres, also up 4,000 acres from last year.

As of October 1, **burley** production is forecast at 25.4 million pounds, 22 percent above a year ago and, the first increase since 1999. Yield is forecast to average 1,950 pounds per acre, up 350 pounds from 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 13,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. Mostly dry weather during September did not seem to affect yields and provided the opportunity for timely harvest. Harvest of the dark-types was nearly wrapped-up by October 1, while burley lagged slightly behind the normal pace. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,200 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,800 pounds per acre, both well above 2007.

**Hay** production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 3.60 million tons, 51 percent above the drought impacted crop of 2007. Yields are expected to average 2.0 tons per acre, up 0.6 ton from last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.8 million acres, up 100,000 acres from a year earlier. September weather was mostly dry, leaving many pastures and hay fields depleted and some livestock producers having to provide supplemental feed. As of the week ending October 5, hay fields were rated in mostly fair-to-good condition, while pastures were rated in mostly poor-to-fair condition.

### Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, October 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	
<b>Tennessee</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	100	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	785	630	106	111	83,210	69,930
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	510	280	565	840	600	490
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,700	1,800	1.40	2.00	2,380	3,600
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	0 <sup>2</sup>	1.90
Soybeans	bu.	1,010	1,460	19	30	19,190	43,800
Tobacco, All	lb.	19.98	21.80	1,934	2,425	38,636	52,870
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.2	7.2	2,600	3,200	16,120	23,040
Burley	lb.	13.0	13.0	1,600	1,950	20,800	25,350
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.78	1.60	2,200	2,800	1,716	4,480
Winter Wheat	bu.	260	520	41.0	63.0	10,660	32,760
<b>United States</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,113,900	9,242,200
Corn for grain	bu.	86,542	79,197	151.1	154.0	13,073,893	12,199,908
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	10,489	7,755	879	849	19,207	13,711
Hay, All	ton	61,625	60,439	2.44	2.49	150,304	150,500
Peaches	ton	---	---	8.41	---	1,129	1,094
Soybeans	bu.	64,141	75,479	41.7	39.5	2,675,822	2,983,023
Tobacco, All	lb.	356.0	356.04	2,191	2,261	779,899	804,927
Dark fire-cured	lb.	14.60	18.40	2,855	3,342	41,688	61,490
Burley	lb.	106.30	95.95	1,951	2,059	207,387	197,600
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.98	8.30	2,706	2,961	13,476	24,580
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,952	39,614	42.2	47.2	1,515,989	1,867,903

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

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

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All Cotton</b>				
AL	17,600	46,350	31,550	10,450
AZ	27,900	27,350	30,300	33,650
AR	288,700	367,750	297,650	37,550
CA	0	0	1	0
FL	0	1	1	1,050
GA	29,000	108,150	14,750	37,900
LA	300,400	397,050	49,100	71,050
MS	393,100	722,200	162,750	17,600
MO	56,150	5,050	234,100	12,400
NM	1	1	0	0
NC	17,800	12,350	28,300	1,700
OK	800	500	1,200	0
SC	4,100	5,750	8,550	1,950
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>71,750</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>142,350</b>	<b>18,350</b>
TX	1,107,000	813,600	559,750	573,550
VA	0	1	1,750	0
US	2,314,450	2,572,150	1,566,300	817,200

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

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

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup>	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,182	1,398	9,082	9,332	1,861	1,886
Arkansas	4,241	3,727	13,900	13,125	1,928	2,004
Georgia	9,433	9,278	19,198	18,178	2,016	2,002
North Carolina	4,731	4,840	12,324	12,060	2,053	2,015
All Other States <sup>2</sup>	257,064	253,181	286,480	281,679	2,205	2,233
United States	276,651	272,424	340,984	334,374	2,168	2,194

<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 all other states total.

**Tennessee Milk Production**

**Tennessee:** July-September 2008 quarterly production of milk was 212 million pounds, down 5 percent from the same period in 2007. The average number of milk cows was 58,000 head, 4,000 head less than the same period a year earlier. April-June 2008 quarterly production of milk, at 255 million pounds, was down 6 percent from the April-June period in 2007. The average number of milk cows for the April-June quarter was 59,000 head, 5,000 less than a year earlier.

**U.S.:** Milk production in the U.S. during the July - September quarter totaled 46.8 billion pounds, up 1.6 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.28 million head, 118,000 head more than the same period last year.

**Quarterly Milk Production: Tennessee and United States, July-September, 2007-2008**

Item	Unit	Tennessee		United States	
		2007	2008	2007	2008
Milk cows on farms <sup>1</sup>	1,000 hd.	62	58	9,159	9,277
Milk production <sup>2</sup>	Mil. lbs.	224	212	46,110	46,841

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. <sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**National Weather Summary  
October 12 - 18, 2008**

**Highlights:** Snow ended early in the week after accumulating as much as a foot on the northern High Plains and at least 2 to 4 feet across parts of the northern Intermountain West. Most of the remainder of the West experienced cool (more than 10 degrees F below normal in a few locations), dry weather, although Santa Ana winds briefly fanned two major wildfires in southern California and brought warmer weather to coastal regions. Meanwhile, a period of heavy rain developed across the central and southern Plains, slowing harvest activities but boosting moisture reserves for emerging winter wheat. Farther north, cold weather ended the growing season across the northern Plains and the upper Midwest. At the time of the season-ending freezes, at least three-quarters of the upper Midwestern corn was fully mature, while virtually all of the crop had dented. Nearly all of the soybeans in the freeze-affected areas were dropping leaves and thus safe from frost. Across the remainder of the Midwest, scattered showers caused only minor corn and soybean harvest delays. Elsewhere, little or no rain accompanied late-season warmth (as much as 10 degrees F above normal) across the eastern one-third of the nation. Southeastern fieldwork resumed, following the previous week's rainfall, while pastures benefited from topsoil moisture improvements.

## **Fill Your Freezer with Farm-Direct Meats this Fall**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – Everybody knows that autumn is harvest time. Lots of traditional crops are gathered in as frosts approach, and you expect grocery aisles to be filled with apples, hard squashes, sweet potatoes, nuts and all sorts of foods that come with the season. You may not know, however, that fall is also good time of year to fill your freezer with meats straight from the farm. As the agricultural fair season ends in October, many beef and sheep farm families are looking to sell their pampered show animals so they can invest in new animals for the coming year. As beef cows get ready to calve in the fall and pastures cease to grow as much forage in cooler weather, beef producers need to free up pasture for new calves and sell the animals that have reached maturity during the past year. As a result, top quality beef, lamb, and any number of meats are available now straight from the farm, from a local farmer. Beef can even be “customized” fed the way you wish, aged to your personal tastes, then cut to the thickness you prefer—at no additional charge. Once cut, the meat is wrapped for freezing and ready to pick up. Buying straight from a farmer guarantees you’ll know just about everything about your purchase. You can also choose whether you want an animal that’s been grain-fed or grass-fed, raised without hormones or antibiotics, or even the breed of the animal. Tennessee farmers employ all sorts of feeding and management techniques with their livestock; a little research will yield you the meat you feel best about buying.

Do take the time to educate yourself about the cuts of meat, aging and quality designations before you buy. Next, note the prices and cuts of meat in retail stores. That 99 cent hamburger is typically only 73 percent lean meat. The rest is fat and water. Hamburger straight from a processor or farmer is ground chuck or round, which is 80 percent lean meat, period. The really big savings comes when you consider the better cuts of meat. The grade of meat available in most retail outlets is typically only “select” grade, when “prime” grade is the best possible quality, followed by “choice”. Prices for store brand ribeyes are usually select. Higher-end ribeyes which are brand named or certified to be a particular breed, are higher priced and will still be only choice grade. Additionally, many seasoned or packaged meats have had a water solution injected into the meat. That water has weight, which is part of the price per pound you’ll pay for. For a whole farm-direct beef—which could easily be 500 lbs. of meat—a typical price per pound will be about \$2-3. Every cut, every pound costs the same, whether it’s prime rib or ground chuck—and it will be choice. Depending on the animal, the way it was fed and other factors, it might even be prime. Keep in mind, too, that retail beef is not aged, which is vital to developing tenderness and flavor. Meat purchased straight from the farm, however can be watched carefully in the processor’s cooler and aged to perfection.

A whole beef can feed a family of four to six people for about a year, but it is not necessary to buy a whole animal. Find friends, family or neighbors to share an animal, or simply purchase a portion of the carcass from the producer or processor. Check with USDA inspected meat processors about buying only a portion, or particular cuts of meat. Just about every type of meat, from beef and lamb to goat and pork, from poultry to rabbit and even emu, is available from a Tennessee farm or processor. Visit the Tennessee Department of Agriculture “Pick Tennessee Products” Web site at [www.PickTnProducts.org](http://www.PickTnProducts.org) for listings of meat producers and processors across the state. Click on “Farm Fresh Meats” to access the lists.