



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 Milk Production Cotton Ginnings Layers & Eggs

October 26, 2009

Livestock Slaughter TDA News Release

Despite a Soggy September, Near Record Yields Anticipated

September weather was highlighted by a dry start, followed by abundant rainfall throughout the remainder of the month that led to slowed crop development and harvest delays. By month's end, harvest progress for all major rows crops was about three weeks behind the normal pace. Results of a producers survey conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the state's cotton and tobacco yields decreased from earlier projections, corn and hay yields increased, and soybeans remained unchanged. The October forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 136 bushels per acre, up 18 bushels from 2008; **Cotton**, 943 pounds per acre, up 34 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 40 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from the previous year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,950 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from last year; and **Other Hay**, except alfalfa, 2.4 tons per acre, up 0.3 tons from 2008.

Cotton Farmers Expect Near Record Yields

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 550,000 bales, up 4 percent from last year's production of 530,000 bales. Cotton yields are expected to average 943 pounds per acre, up 34 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 280,000 acres, unchanged from 2008. Producers commented that yields may have been impacted by the adverse wet, cloudy, cool weather experienced during most of September. The effect of this pattern was some boll rot, some hard lock and a major delay in harvest. Defoliation and harvest progress around October 1 was a full three and one-half weeks behind normal. No cotton had been ginned and only 28 percent of the crop had been defoliated as of October 4 compared to an average of 75 percent.

Largest Soybean Crop in 30 Years

Soybean production is forecast at 61.2 million bushels, up 11.6 million from last year's output and, if realized, will be the highest production since 1979 and the second largest on record. Soybean yields are forecast at 40 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above 2008. The State's planted acreage was updated from June and is now estimated at 1.57 million acres. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.53 million acres, up 70,000 from a year ago and the largest since 1984. Early September saw dry conditions with only isolated showers in the western part of the state. The weather pattern changed dramatically as weeks of near constant rain the remainder of the month helped the late planted beans fill pods. However, given the duration of the precipitation and the continuing wet conditions, there have been reports of beans sprouting in the pods. Some early maturing soybeans were harvested before the rain began with good yields. Frogeye and Asian Rust have appeared in some locations, but most of the crop was mature enough not to be affected. As of October 4, only 9 percent of the crop had been harvested and 73 percent dropping leaves, behind last year and the five-year average.

Corn Production Up From 2008

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 80.2 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 136 bushels per acre, 18 bushels above 2008 and 1 bushel above the September 1 forecast. The State's planted acreage was updated from June and is now estimated at 670,000 acres, down 20,000 from last year. Farmers expect to harvest 590,000 acres for grain, 40,000 less than last year. As of the week ending October 4, over 90 percent of the corn crop was mature. Grain harvest progress has been hindered by wet conditions and trails the 5-year average by three weeks. Virtually all acreage for silage has been harvested.

Burley Production Expected to Increase

As of October 1, burley production is forecast at 27.3 million pounds, 11 percent above a year ago. The state average yield is forecast at 1,950 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from 2008. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 14,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2008. The tobacco crop deteriorated somewhat during September as ripe, ready to cut tobacco could not be gathered on a timely basis due to muddy conditions. 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, unchanged and down 200 pounds per acre, respectively.

Near Record Hay Yields Forecasted

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.56 million tons, 17 percent above last year's crop. Yields are expected to average 2.4 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.90 million acres, up 50,000 acres from a year earlier. Plentiful rainfall, combined with moderate temperature, has resulted in near ideal growing conditions. Forecasted yields are the highest estimated in the state since 2004's record of 2.5 tons per acre.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, October 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	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	---	---	11,100	8,890	10,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	630	590	118	136	74,340	80,240
Cotton ¹	lb.	280	280	909	943	530	550
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,850	1,900	2.10	2.40	3,885	4,560
Soybeans	bu.	1,460	1,530	34	40	49,640	61,200
Tobacco, All	lb.	21.8	21.6	2,403	2,362	52,380	51,020
Dark fire-cured	lb.	7.2	6.4	3,200	3,200	23,040	20,480
Burley	lb.	13.0	14.0	1,900	1,950	24,700	27,300
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.6	1.2	2,900	2,700	4,640	3,240
Winter Wheat	bu.	520	340	63.0	51.0	32,760	17,340
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,769,300	10,016,000
Corn for grain	bu.	78,640	79,294	153.9	164.2	12,101,238	13,018,058
Cotton ¹	lb.	7,569	7,732	813	807	12,815	12,998
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,082	39,195	1.95	2.06	76,052	80,752
Soybeans	bu.	74,681	76,619	39.7	42.4	2,967,007	3,250,113
Tobacco, All	lb.	354.5	353.3	2,258	2,304	800,504	813,964
Dark fire-cured	lb.	18.6	16,150	3,344	3,317	62,190	53,565
Burley	lb.	97.5	101.6	2,067	2,115	201,530	214,930
Dark air-cured	lb.	8.5	5.8	2,981	3,017	25,340	17,500
Winter Wheat	bu.	39,608	34,485	47.1	44.2	1,867,333	1,522,718

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

Tennessee: July-September 2009 quarterly production of milk was 212 million pounds, unchanged from the July-September period in 2008. The average number of milk cows was 55,000 head, 3,000 head less than the same period a year earlier. April-June 2009 quarterly production of milk, at 255 million pounds, was down 3 percent from the April-June period in 2008. The average number of milk cows for the April-June quarter was 56,000 head, 3,000 less than a year earlier.

Milk Cows and Production: Tennessee and U.S. Preliminary, July-September, 2008-2009

	July-September Milk Cows ¹		July-September Milk Production ²		Change from 2008
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		Percent
Tennessee	58	55	212	212	
United States	9,330	9,159	46,881	46,758	-0.3

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

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters)
As of October 1, 2009 by Crop, State, and United States**

Crop and State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Upland				
AL	46,350	31,550	10,450	¹
AZ	27,350	30,300	13,850	18,000
AR	367,750	297,650	37,550	0
CA	0	¹	0	0
FL	¹	¹	1,050	0
GA	108,150	14,750	37,900	¹
LA	397,050	49,100	71,050	18,250
MS	722,200	162,750	17,600	¹
MO	5,050	234,100	12,400	0
NM	¹	0	0	0
NC	12,350	28,300	1,700	1,600
OK	500	1,200	0	0
SC	5,750	8,550	1,950	2,550
TN	59,500	142,350	18,350	0
TX	813,600	559,750	573,550	251,150
VA	¹	1,750	0	0
US	2,572,150	1,566,300	797,400	293,050

¹Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States
and United States, During September 2008-2009**

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Number	Number
Alabama	1,398	1,261	9,334	9,227	1,886	1,897
Arkansas	3,727	3,440	12,835	11,818	2,018	2,014
Georgia	9,278	8,535	17,959	17,176	2,005	2,119
North Carolina	4,840	5,587	12,020	12,617	2,013	1,997
All Other States ²	253,875	254,868	282,341	282,775	2,232	2,242
United States	273,118	273,691	334,489	333,613	2,194	2,209

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

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, September 2008-2009

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	2.7	3.0	2,160	2,563	833	879
Calves	0.1	²	35	²	451	²
Hogs	67.7	66.1	31,643	30,399	469	461
Sheep & Lambs	1.7	1.5	130	106	77	73
United States						
Cattle	2,889.4	2,814.4	3,737,069	3,676,548	1,297	1,311
Calves	87.4	81.2	21,683	19,646	251	244
Hogs	9,969.5	9,935.6	2,645,765	2,678,810	266	270
Sheep & Lambs	223.7	225.4	28,846	29,359	129	130

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

TDA Recovery Act Funds to Aid Area Food Banks

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture today announced the allocation of more than \$572,000 to help five area food banks with the cost of providing food to the needy. The funds were provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“Food banks can be a real lifeline to some of our state’s most vulnerable citizens,” said Governor Phil Bredesen. “These Recovery Act funds will help put food on the table for Tennesseans in need.”

“Local food banks have seen the demand for their services increase due to the current economic situation. We’re glad these Recovery Act funds will be able to help cover some of the cost of providing food assistance to those who really need it in communities across Tennessee,” said state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens.

The federal funds are to help reimburse agencies for costs incurred in distributing food to the needy during the previous fiscal year. Allocations are based on the most recent U.S. Census Bureau poverty estimates for counties in each food bank's service area. Food banks sharing in the funding include:

- Chattanooga Area Food Bank - \$55,005
- Mid-South Food Bank, Memphis - \$150,118
- Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee, Knoxville - \$111,729
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, Nashville - \$205,122
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee, Washington Co. - \$50,994

State Agriculture officials expect a similar allocation of ARRA funds for the current federal fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. Those funds will be used to assist community action agencies, which also distribute food to the needy in communities across Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture administers emergency food assistance in the state and distributes USDA commodities for the National School Lunch Program to Tennessee schools. Last year, TDA distributed more than 43 million pounds of food valued at \$43 million to schools, childcare institutions and non-profit charities.

For more information on TDA, visit www.TN.gov/agriculture. For more information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit www.tnrecovery.gov.