



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

November Crop Production Cotton Ginnings Farm Labor Chicken & Eggs

National Agricultural Weather December Survey Press Release

November 25, 2008

Crops Perform Better Than Earlier Expectations

With harvest of the State's crops in full swing, yield projections have come into focus and are slightly better than earlier forecasted. Cotton yield prospects improved for the fourth consecutive month, increasing 77 pounds per acre from October to the second highest on record. As of November 1 cotton yields are expected to outperform the five-year average by over 100 pounds per acre. Corn and soybean yields also improved from the previous month. A relatively warm, dry October allowed farmers to make excellent harvest progress with corn shelling completed and cotton and soybean harvest ahead of normal by month's end. The November 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**, 917 pounds per acre, up 352 pounds from a year earlier; and **Soybeans**, 31 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from the previous year.

Tennessee's **cotton** production is forecast at 535,000 bales, down only 11 percent from last year's production of 600,000 bales despite a 45 percent drop in acreage. Cotton yields are expected to average 917 pounds per acre, up 352 pounds from the previous year and the largest one year increase since records began in 1866. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 280,000 acres, down 230,000 acres from 2007. The cotton crop's heavy boll set paid dividends as reported yields rose significantly from a month ago. Eighty-six percent of the acreage was harvested as of the week ending November 2, ahead of normal by 15 percentage points. **Soybean** production is forecast at 45.3 billion bushels, up 26.1 million from last year's drought level and the largest one year increase since records began in 1924. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.46 million acres, up 450,000 from a year ago and also the largest one year acreage increase on record. Soybean yields are forecast at 31 bushels per acre, up a bushel from last month and 12 bushels above 2007. Soybean harvest progressed ahead of average throughout the month of October. Through the week ending November 3, 78 percent of the crop had been harvested, compared with 74 percent last year and 70 percent for the five-year average. Tennessee's **corn** production is forecast at 72.5 million bushels, up 4 percent from a month earlier, but 13 percent below 2007. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 115 bushels per acre, up 4 bushels from a month earlier and 9 bushels above 2007. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 630,000, down 155,000 acres from last year. Warm temperatures and dry weather across most of the State during the first week of October aided crop maturation and promoted a faster-than-normal harvest pace. Much needed rain arrived the next week which soaked fields and slowed harvest activities. Favorable weather the last two weeks, however, allowed harvest to be completed on schedule by the end of October.

U.S. Corn production is forecast at 12.0 billion bushels, down slightly from the October forecast and 8 percent below 2007. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 153.8 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from October but 2.7 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, behind 2004, and production will be the second largest, behind last year. Forecasted yields are higher than last year across the northern half of the Great Plains and northern and central Corn Belt. Yield prospects are lower than last year in the southern half of the Great Plains and Delta. **Soybean** production is forecast at 2.92 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the October forecast but up 9 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.3 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from October 1 and down 2.4 bushels from 2007. Compared with October 1, yields are forecast lower or unchanged across the Corn Belt and Great Plains, with the exception of Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. Yields increased from the October 1 forecast in Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, New York, and Virginia. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 74.4 million acres, unchanged from October 1 but up 16 percent from 2007. **All Cotton** production is forecast at 13.5 million 480-pound bales, down 1 percent from last month and down 30 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 837 pounds per harvested acre, down 12 pounds from last month and down 42 pounds from the record high yield in 2007. Upland cotton production is forecast at 13.1 million 480-pound bales, down 1 percent from last month and 29 percent below 2007.

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

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
			Indicated		Indicated		Indicated
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	100	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	785	630	106	115	83,210	72,450
Cotton ¹	lb.	510	280	565	917	600	535
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,700	1,800	1.40	2.00	2,380	3,600
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	0 ²	1.90
Soybeans	bu.	1,010	1,460	19	31	19,190	45,260
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
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,113,900	9,242,200
Corn for grain	bu.	86,542	78,177	151.1	153.8	13,073,893	12,019,894
Cotton ¹	lb.	10,489	7,755	879	837	19,207	13,528
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	74,374	41.7	39.3	2,675,822	2,920,589
Tobacco, All	lb.	356.00	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

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

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

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2005	2006	2007	2008
All Cotton				
AL	321,500	323,800	203,950	203,150
AZ	137,550	108,900	121,500	69,650
AR	1,355,950	1,408,950	1,255,950	852,800
CA	347,900	239,850	343,150	127,250
FL	22,400	43,050	33,950	39,250
GA	560,100	705,850	314,300	428,800
LA	904,700	925,550	516,600	265,550
MS	1,509,350	1,720,000	967,900	393,050
MO	506,100	363,650	609,850	407,700
NM	11,200	8,000	8,700	3,000
NC	382,700	414,000	397,100	231,850
OK	52,400	37,900	73,500	44,050
SC	96,350	115,500	67,450	79,300
TN	545,600	560,750	511,650	359,600
TX	1,889,400	1,587,600	1,601,000	821,600
VA	47,750	40,850	45,150	38,850
US	8,690,950	8,604,200	7,071,700	4,365,450

¹ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

Hired Workers Down 3 Percent, Wage Rates up 3 Percent from a Year Ago

There were 1,117,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 801,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.70 per hour during the October 2008 reference week, up 32 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.05 per hour, up 43 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.19 per hour compared with \$10.02 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.08 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago. The 2008 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$10.59 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2007 annual average wage rate of \$10.23 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$9.78 per hour, up 38 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$9.89 per hour, up 4 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$9.49 per hour.

Chicken & Eggs: U.S. egg production totaled 7.61 billion during October 2008, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.54 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 69 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2008 averaged 335 million, down 2 percent from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,276 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2007.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During October 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	1,277	1,387	9,352	9,312	1,946	1,944
Arkansas	4,125	3,663	13,932	12,854	1,974	2,069
Georgia	9,548	9,324	19,252	18,184	2,130	2,123
North Carolina	4,915	4,853	12,467	11,980	2,134	2,087
All Other States ²	258,357	253,874	287,634	282,230	2,292	2,314
United States	278,222	273,101	342,637	334,560	2,255	2,276

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.

National Agricultural Summary, November 10 - 16, 2008

Seventy-eight percent of the Nation's **corn** crop was harvested, 19 points behind last year and 16 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was complete in North Carolina and Tennessee, and was nearly complete in Kentucky and Texas. Heavy harvest activity was evident in Michigan, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Producers had harvested 95 percent of the **soybean** crop by week's end, 3 points behind last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Though only 3 points behind the normal pace in North Carolina, producers had only harvested 42 percent of the acreage, while elsewhere, 83 percent or more of the crop had been reaped. Producers in several northern Corn Belt States had completed harvest.

Ninety-six percent of the **winter wheat** acreage was planted, the same as last year and the 5-year average. Planting was complete or near complete across much of the growing area, however in California and North Carolina, a substantial amount of acreage was yet to be planted.

Sixty-four percent of the **cotton** acreage was harvested, 10 points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was complete in Missouri and neared completion in the Delta and in Tennessee. Progress ranged from 23 points behind the 5-year average in Kansas to 12 points ahead in Missouri. Harvest was very active in California, Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas.

USDA to Gather Year-End Production Numbers

It's that time of year again, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) prepares to contact producers nationwide to gather final year-end production numbers. Having experienced volatile growing conditions this season – including floods in the Midwest and hurricanes in the South – it's more important than ever for producers to respond to the December Agricultural Survey.

“The December Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is the largest and most critical year-end survey conducted by NASS,” explained Debra Kenerson, director of the NASS Tennessee Field Office. “This survey is the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States.

“With questions still remaining about the final impact of the continuing extreme drought in many areas of the state, data from the December Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and begin planning for the next growing season,” added Kenerson.

During the first two weeks of December, NASS will contact selected Tennessee producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their 2008 production and on-farm stocks of corn, soybeans, and wheat. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Crop Production* summary and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on January 12, 2009.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. “NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified,” stated Kenerson.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Tennessee Field Office at 1-800-626-0987.