



Field Crops

Crops

Yields for other hay and fire-cured tobacco were down from previous year's record yields. Wheat yields were up 5 bushels while barley yields were down 10 bushels, from 2005. Acreage planted for wheat and cotton were up from 2005. Wheat acres planted, at 190,000 acres were up 6 percent from 2005, due to favorable prices. Acres planted to cotton at 105,000 acres were 13 percent greater than the previous year, due to a positive market and good prices. Peanuts planted, at 17,000 acres, were the lowest planted acreage on record. The decline in acreage is due to the demise of the peanut quota program.

Prices

Prices for tobacco, soybeans, and wheat were up from 2005, while peanuts fell to the lowest price since 1973. Corn's market year average for 2006 jumped up \$0.86/bu when compared to last year's \$2.14/bu. Soybeans increased 12 percent from \$5.53/bu to \$6.20/bu. The cost of production and an increase in demand for bio-fuels contributed to the rising corn and soybean prices. Peanut prices continued to fall after the end of the peanut quota program in 2003. A decline in the world wheat stocks contributed to Virginia wheat prices increasing from \$2.91/bu to \$3.15/bu. Tobacco increased slightly from \$1.50/lb to \$1.53/lb.

Cash Receipts

Total cash receipts for Virginia field crops in 2006 at 410.9 million dollars, were up 3 percent from 2005 but down 17 percent from 2004. Part of the increase was due to the 98.7 million dollars in cash receipts from fresh market tomatoes. This was a 12% increase from 2005, and makes fresh market tomatoes Virginia's number one cash crop. Cash receipts for soybeans, at 86.4 million dollars, decreased 16 percent from last year. Fewer soybean sales offset an increase in price when compared to 2005. Corn cash receipts, at 86.1 million dollars, were 6 percent higher than the previous year. Although the 2006 crop was smaller than the 2005 crop, higher prices accounted for much of the difference. Tobacco sales, at 71.6 million dollars, were 18 percent higher than in 2005. Larger production and better prices accounted for the increase. Cash receipts for cotton at 43.3 million dollars, was down 1 percent from 2005. Lower production and prices accounted for the decline.

