

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE



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Number: 1

Released: January 11, 2008

Virginia's Corn, Soybeans, Cotton, and Tobacco Production Down, While Winter Wheat Seedings Are Up

Spring began with dry conditions throughout Virginia. Periodic rains brought some relief improving soil moisture levels in some parts of the Commonwealth. Late summer conditions were hot and dry. Sporadic rains brought relief to some farmers across the state, but many crops were unable to benefit from the late season rain showers. Due to such a dry spring and summer, many crop yields were low.

Corn for grain yields averaged 85 bushels per acre, down 35 bushels from the previous year's yield. Production is estimated at 34.4 million bushels, 17 percent below the 2006 production. 405,000 acres were harvested for grain, which is 60,000 acres more than last year. Corn silage acres harvested totaled 140,000 acres, with a yield of 14.5 tons per acre.

Soybeans yields averaged 27 bushels per acre, 4 bushel below 2006. A total of 480,000 acres were harvested for beans, down 30,000 acres from the previous year. Soybean production is estimated at 13 million bushels, 18 percent less than last year's production.

Virginia's peanut producers harvested an average of 2,700 pounds per acre this season, down 500 pounds per acre from last year. Peanut production is estimated at 56.7 million pounds, up 4 percent from the 2006 production.

Cotton production is estimated at 105,000 bales, down 32 percent from 2006. The cotton yield forecast is 854 pounds per acre, up 140 pounds from 2006's yield. Producers harvested 59,000 acres in 2006, a decrease of 45,000 acres from last year.

Flue-cured tobacco yields averaged 2,250 pounds per acre, 220 pounds below 2470 pounds per acre harvested in 2006. Virginia's production is expected to total 40.5 million pounds, down 4 percent from last year. Burley tobacco yield is estimated at 1,800 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from 2006. Burley production is estimated at 4 million pounds, down 14 percent from last year.

Winter wheat seedings for Virginia is at 280,000 acres. This up 50,000 acres from 2007 and the highest since 1999.

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Crop Production

2007 Summary

Corn for grain production in 2007 is estimated at 13.1 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November forecast but 24 percent above 2006. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 151.1 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels from the November forecast but 2.0 bushels above 2006. The 2007 yield estimate is the second highest on record, behind 2004, while production is the largest on record as producers harvested the most corn acres for grain since 1933.

Soybean production in 2007 totals 2.59 billion bushels, down slightly from the November forecast and 19 percent below the record high production of 2006. The average yield per acre is estimated at 41.2 bushels, 0.1 bushel below the November forecast and 1.5 bushels below last year's yield. Harvested area is down 16 percent from 2006, to 62.8 million acres.

All cotton production is estimated at 19.0 million 480-pound bales, p slightly from last month but down 12 percent from 2006. The U.S. yield is estimated at a record high 871 pounds per acre, up 57 pounds from last year and up 7 pounds from the December forecast. The yield surpasses the previous record set in 2004. Harvested area, at 10.5 million acres, is down less than 1 percent from December and down 18 percent from last year.

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