



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## **VIRGINIA'S WHEAT PRODUCERS EXPECT LOWER YIELDS**

The 2006 wheat crop is expected to total nearly 9.52 million bushels, according to the initial season forecast just released by the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office. If realized, production will be down 6 percent from 2005 and 4 percent below the 9.90 million bushels produced in 2004. Producers in the Commonwealth are expected to harvest 170,000 acres of wheat that will yield an average of 56 bushels per acre, down 7 bushels from the previous year. The majority of the wheat crop is in fair to good condition.

## **U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 10 PERCENT**

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season.

Hard Red production is down 23 percent from a year ago to 715 million bushels. Soft Red is up 15 percent and totals 356 million bushels. White production totals 252 million bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 21.7 million bushels are Hard White and 230 million bushels are Soft White.

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