



NEWS RELEASE

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VIRGINIA'S WHEAT YIELD UP FROM 2005

Virginia's wheat producers expect to harvest 66 bushels per acre in 2006 according to a survey conducted by the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office. This is up 3 bushels per acre from last year. Virginia's wheat production is expected to total nearly 11.2 million bushels from an estimated 170,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year's total wheat crop of 10.1 million bushels. Yield forecasts are based on conditions as of July 1.

The survey indicated barley yields averaged 86 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel per acre from last year. Barley production is expected to total 3.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2005. Harvested acreage is expected to total 42,000 acres down 7 percent from last year.

FLUE CURED TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP 32 PERCENT IN 2006 PEACH PRODUCTION DOWN

Virginia's 2006 flue cured tobacco production is expected to total 44.7 million pounds, down 32 percent from 2005. Acreage is up 5,000 harvested acres from 2005. Producers expect to harvest 19,000 acres resulting in a yield of 2,350 pounds per acre. The yield forecast is slightly down from last year's 2,410 pounds per acre.

Virginia's 2006 peach crop is expected to total 3,500 tons, down 26 percent from 2005.

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Winter Wheat Production Up 1 Percent from June Forecast

Barley Production 10 Percent

Flu-cured Tobacco Up 24 Percent

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.28 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month but 15 percent below 2005. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.1 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month but down 3.3 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain totals 31.1 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2006, but down 8 percent from last year.

U.S. barley production for 2006 is forecast at 190 million bushels, 10 percent below 2005 and the lowest production since 1936. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 63.4 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from last year. Area for harvest, at 2.99 million acres, is down 9 percent from 2005 and the lowest since 1885. Production and area harvested are expected to be down in all of last year's top seven producing States. North Dakota's forecasted production, at 48.5 million tons, is 15 percent below last year and the lowest since 1988. In Idaho and Montana, expected production is down 14 and 10 percent, respectively.

U.S. flue-cured tobacco production is forecast at 474 million pounds, up 24 percent from the 2005 crop but 9 percent below 2004 when tobacco quotas were still in place. Area harvested at 210,100 acres, is 20 percent above a year ago but down 8 percent from 2004. Yield per acre for flue-cured tobacco is forecast at 2,256 pounds, up 74 pounds from last year but 27 pounds below the 2004 yield. Forecasted yields for flue-cured tobacco in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina increased from last year, while average yield is expected to decrease in Virginia.

The July 2006 forecast of U.S. peach production is 1.06 million tons, down 11 percent from 2005 and 19 percent below the 2004 crop. Half of the 28 Freestone peach estimating States expect increases in production from last year, while 12 States decreased their production from the previous season, and 2 States showed no change.

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