



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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Number 11

Released: August 11, 2006

## **VIRGINIA'S WINTER WHEAT, SOYBEAN AND CORN PRODUCERS EXPECT HIGHER YIELDS IN 2006**

Winter wheat production is expected to total 11.2 million bushels which is up, 11 percent from the previous year. Yield is forecast at 66 bushels per acre compared with 63 bushels per acre a year earlier. Harvested acreage is up 10,000 acres from 2005 to 170,000 acres.

Soybean producers currently expect to harvest 510,000 acres with an average yield of 33 bushels per acre. Production is expected to total 16.83 million bushels, up 10 percent from last year.

Virginia's corn yields are expected to be 130 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from last year. Production is estimated at 48.1 million bushels, up 13 percent from 2005. Harvested acres are estimated at 370,000.

Cotton yield is forecast to average 892 pounds per acre, down 7 percent from last year's 955 pounds per acre. If realized, production would be 184,000 bales, up slightly from last year. Producers expect to harvest 99,000 acres in 2006, up nearly 8 percent from last year.

Peanut harvest is expected to be 16,000 acres, down 27 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 3,100 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from last year's yield. Resulting production will be 25 percent below 2005 at 49,600,000 pounds.

Hay producers expect to harvest 120,000 acres of alfalfa hay with an average yield of 3.5 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 420,000 tons, up 6 percent from 2005. There are nearly 1.2 million acres of other hay expected to be harvested in Virginia. The yield for other hay is expected to average 2.2 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 2.53 million tons, down 20 percent from the previous year.

Barley yields averaged 82 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels per acre from last year. The resulting production will total over 3.4 million bushels. Barley producers harvested 42,000 acres, which was down 3,000 acres from last year.

Flue tobacco producers currently expect yields to average 2,400 pounds, down slightly from 2005. Production will total 40.8 million pounds from 17,000 acres. Harvested acreage increased 3,000 acres.

Burley yields are expected to average 2,150 pounds, up slightly from last year's 2,100 pound average. Production is expected to total slightly over 6.0 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2005. Producers expect to harvest 2,800 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

Fire-cured tobacco yields are expected to average 2,050 pounds per acre, down 5 percent from 2005. Production is expected to total 779,000 pounds, up 7 percent from 2005. Producers expect to harvest 380 acres in 2006, up 40 acres from last year.

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Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**Corn Production Down 1 Percent from 2005**  
**Soybean Production Down 5 Percent from Last Year**  
**Cotton Production Down 14 Percent from 2005**  
**All Wheat Production Down Slightly from July Forecast**

All U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last year and 7 percent below 2004. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 152.2 bushels per acre, up 4.3 bushels from last year. If realized, yield would be the second largest and production would be the third largest on record. Forecast yields across the Great Plains and western Corn Belt are at or below last year as scarce precipitation and above normal temperatures depleted soil moisture levels and caused crop conditions to decline. Expected yields are generally higher than last year in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley as frequent rainfall and near normal temperatures throughout much of the growing season helped maintain adequate soil moisture. The largest yield increase from last year is in Illinois where farmers expect to average 172 bushels per acre, 29 bushels above last year's drought-reduced yield. The largest yield decreases are expected in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and North Dakota. Soybean production is forecast at 2.93 billion bushels, down 5 percent from 2005 and down 6 percent from 2004. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.6 bushels per acre, down 3.7 bushels from the record high U.S. yield set last year. Yields are lower than 2005 throughout the Great Plains, the western Corn Belt, and the Gulf Coast States, while yields are expected to remain unchanged or increase in the Ohio Valley, Arkansas, Missouri, and the Atlantic Coast States. Area for harvest, at 73.9 million acres, remains unchanged from June but is up 4 percent from 2005.

All U.S. **cotton** production is forecast at 20.4 million 480-pound bales, down 14 percent from last year's record high 23.9 million bales. Yield is expected to average 765 pounds per harvested acre, down 66 pounds from 2005. Upland cotton production is forecast at 19.5 million 480-pound bales, 16 percent below 2005. Missouri and Tennessee producers are expecting record high production at 1.03 million and 1.25 million 480-pound bales, respectively. American-Pima production is forecast at a record high 893,000 bales, up 42 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 12.8 million acres of all cotton and 12.5 million acres of upland cotton, down 7 percent and 8 percent, respectively. American-Pima harvested area is expected to total a record high 333,000 acres, up 24 percent from 2005. All wheat production, at 1.80 billion bushels, is down slightly from the July forecast and down 14 percent from 2005. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 38.3 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but 3.7 bushels below last year.

All U.S. **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.28 billion bushels, up slightly from last month but 14 percent below 2005. Area harvested for grain totals 31.1 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 8 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.2 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from July 1.

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