



NEWS RELEASE

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VIRGINIA'S WHEAT YIELD UP FROM JUNE PREDICTION BARLEY YIELDS DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

Virginia's wheat producers expect yields to average 67 bushels per acre in 2007 according to a survey conducted by the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office. This is up 6 bushels per acre from last month's prediction. Virginia's wheat production is expected to total nearly 12.4 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year's total wheat crop of 10.5 million bushels. Yield forecasts are based on conditions as of July 1. Producers expect to harvest 185,000 acres of wheat, 30,000 more than 2006.

The survey indicated barley yields averaged 73 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels per acre from last year. Barley production is expected to total 2.6 million bushels, down 12 percent from 2006. Harvested acreage is expected to total 35,000 acres down 7,000 acres from last year.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP 10 PERCENT IN 2007 PEACH PRODUCTION DOWN

Virginia's 2007 flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 45.6 million pounds, up 10 percent from 2006. Acreage is up 2,000 harvested acres from 2006. Producers expect to harvest 19,000 acres with an average yield of 2,400 pounds per acre. The yield forecast is slightly down from last year's 2,430 pounds per acre.

Virginia's 2007 peach crop is expected to total 2,100 tons, down 48 percent from 2006. Freezing temperatures in early April severely reduced the size of the Virginia crop.

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Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

U.S. Winter Wheat Production Down 3 Percent from June Forecast
U.S. Barley Production 28 Percent Above 2006
U.S. Flue-Cured Tobacco Production Up 7 Percent from the 2006 Crop
U.S. Peach Production Up 2 Percent from 2006

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.56 billion bushels. This is down 3 percent from last month but 20 percent above 2006. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.6 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels from last month and down 0.1 bushel from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 37.6 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 29, 2007 but up 21 percent from last year.

U.S. barley production for 2007 is forecast at 231 million bushels, 28 percent above 2006 and 9 percent higher than 2005. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the U.S. is forecast at 65.2 bushels per acre, up 4.2 bushels from last year. Expected area to be harvested as grain or seed, at 3.54 million acres, is up 20 percent from 2006. Production is expected to be up in all of this year's top seven producing States. North Dakota's production forecast, at 82.4 million bushels, is 69 percent above last year and 44 percent higher than 2005. If realized, the barley yield in North Dakota will be the third highest on record. In Idaho and Montana, expected production is up 5 and 27 percent, respectively, from last year.

U.S. all flue-cured tobacco production is forecast at 476 million pounds, up 7 percent from the 2006 crop and 25 percent above two years ago. Area harvested, at 224,000 acres, is 5 percent above a year ago and up 28 percent from 2005. Yield per acre for flue-cured tobacco is forecast at 2,126 pounds, up 31 pounds from last year but 56 pounds below the 2005 yield. Forecasted yields for flue-cured tobacco in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina increased from last year, while the average yield is expected to decrease in Virginia.

The U.S. peach production forecast is 1.03 million tons, up 2 percent from 2006 but 13 percent below the 2005 crop. Nineteen of the 28 Freestone peach estimating States expect decreases in production from last year, while six States increased their production from the previous season, and three States showed no change. Freestone production, at 576,845 tons, is down 11 percent from last season.