



NEWS RELEASE

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Number 12

Released: August 10, 2007

VIRGINIA'S CORN, WINTER WHEAT, AND COTTON PRODUCERS EXPECT LOWER YIELDS IN 2007

Winter wheat yield is forecast at 65 bushels per acre compared with 68 bushels per acre a year earlier. Production is expected to total 12.0 million bushels which is up, 14 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage is up 30,000 acres from 2006 to 185,000 acres.

Soybean producers currently expect to harvest 490,000 acres with an average yield of 25 bushels per acre. Production is expected to total 12.3 million bushels, down 23 percent from last year.

Virginia's corn yields are expected to be 80 bushels per acre, down 40 bushels per acre from last year. Production is estimated at 32.0 million bushels, down 23 percent from 2006. Harvested acres are estimated at 400,000.

Cotton yield is forecast to average 600 pounds per acre, down 16 percent from last year's 717 pounds per acre. If realized, production would be 80,000 bales, down 49 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 64,000 acres in 2007, down 38 percent from last year.

Peanut harvest is expected to be 23,000 acres, up almost 44 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 2,800 pounds per acre, down 300 pounds from last year's yield. Resulting production will be 30 percent above 2006 at 64,400,000 pounds.

Hay producers expect to harvest 110,000 acres of alfalfa hay with an average yield of 2.8 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 308,000 tons, down 22 percent from 2006. 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 2.0 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 2.34 million tons, down 6 percent from the previous year.

Barley yields averaged 71 bushels per acre, down 6 bushels per acre from last year. The resulting production will total almost 2.5 million bushels. Barley producers harvested 35,000 acres, which was down 7,000 acres from last year.

Flue tobacco producers currently expect yields to average 2,400 pounds, down slightly from 2006. Production will total 43.2 million pounds from 18,000 acres. Harvested acreage increased 1,000 acres.

Burley yields are expected to average 2,000 pounds, the same as last year. Production is expected to total 4.4 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. Producers expect to harvest 2,200 acres, down 100 acres from the previous year.

Fire-cured tobacco yields are expected to average 2,100 pounds per acre, up slightly from 2006. Production is expected to total 840,000 pounds, up 15 percent from 2006. Producers expect to harvest 400 acres in 2007, up 50 acres from last year.

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Corn Production Up 24 Percent from 2006
Soybean Production Down 18 Percent from Last Year
Cotton Production Down 20 Percent from 2006
All Wheat Production Down Slightly from July Forecast

All U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 13.1 billion bushels, up 24 percent from last year and 17 percent above 2005. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 152.8 bushels per acre, up 3.7 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, behind the 160.4 bushel yield in 2004. However, production will be the largest on record as growers intend to harvest the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Yield forecasts are higher than last year across the Great Plains where frequent rainfall during much of the growing season provided abundant soil moisture for filling the crop. Higher yields are also expected in the central Corn Belt and Delta where timely rains benefitted the crop. Expected yields across much of the northern and eastern Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, Tennessee Valley, Southeast, and Atlantic Coast States are below last year as hot, dry conditions during much of the growing season reduced soil moisture supplies and stressed the crop.

All U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.63 billion bushels, down 18 percent from last year's record high and down 14 percent from 2005. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.5 bushels per acre, down 1.2 bushels from last year. Yields are lower than 2006 throughout most of the Atlantic Coast States, most of the Corn Belt, and the Tennessee Valley, while yields are expected to remain unchanged or increase across the Great Plains, the Gulf Coast States, and Arkansas. Area for harvest, at 63.3 million acres, remains unchanged from June but is down 15 percent from 2006.

All U.S. **cotton** production is forecast at 17.3 million 480-pound bales, down 20 percent from last year's 21.6 million bales. Yield is expected to average 783 pounds per harvested acre, down 31 pounds from 2006. Producers expect to harvest 10.6 million acres of all cotton and 10.3 million acres of upland cotton, down 16 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Upland cotton production is forecast at 16.5 million 480-pound bales, 21 percent below 2006. Texas producers are expecting to produce 6.10 million 480-pound bales of upland cotton, up 5 percent from last year. With ideal weather in Mississippi and Arkansas, producers expect higher yields than last year. American-Pima production is forecast at 808,500 bales, up 6 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested area is expected to total 293,000 acres, down 9 percent from 2006.

All U.S. **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.54 billion bushels. This is down 2 percent from last month but 18 percent above 2006. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.3 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from last month and down 0.4 bushel from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 37.2 million acres, down 1 percent from last month but up 20 percent from last year.