

NEWS RELEASE



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



102 Governor St., Rm LL20, Richmond VA 23219 • (804) 771-2493
Ag Statistics Hotline: (800) 727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov

Contact: Kevin Barnes, Director

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VIRGINIA'S SOYBEAN, CORN, PEANUT, TOBACCO AND COTTON YIELDS DOWN FROM PREVIOUS FORECAST

Dry conditions for most of August have lowered Virginia's row crop yield prospects. Based on conditions September 1st, Virginia producers expected lower yields for corn, soybean, peanuts and tobacco according to the Virginia office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Soybean producers expect to harvest an average of 28 bushels per acre from 510,000 acres, a decrease of 5 bushels per acre from the previous forecast of 33 bushels per acre on August 1. Production is expected to total 14.3 million bushels.

Virginia corn yields are expected to average 125 bushels per acre, a decrease of 5 bushels per acre from the previous forecast of 130 bushels per acre on August 1. Production is expected to total nearly 46.3 million bushels, which is down 9 percent from the previous year.

The state's peanut yield is 2,950 pounds per acre. This is down 150 pounds per acre from the August forecast. Production is expected to total 47.2 million pounds, which is down 29 percent from last year. Peanut producers will harvest 16,000 acres in 2006 which is a decrease of 6,000 acres from the previous year.

Based on September 1 conditions, flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,400 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 40.8 million pounds from 17,000 acres. If realized, this would be 21 percent above last year's production.

Burley tobacco yield is forecast at 2,000 pounds per acre. This would bring total production to 5.0 million pounds from 2,500 acres. This compares with last year's average yield of 2,100 pounds per acre, and a total production of 5 million pounds harvested from 2,500 acres.

Fire tobacco yield is forecast at 2,050 pounds per acre. Production is forecast at nearly 718 thousand pounds from 350 acres.

The state's cotton yield is forecast at 738 pounds per acre, down 154 pounds per acre from August 1. Production is expected to total 160 thousand bales.

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Corn Production Up 1 Percent from August Forecast
Soybean Production Up 6 Percent
Cotton Production Down Slightly

U.S. **Corn** production is forecast at 11.1 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and fractionally above 2005. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 154.7 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from August and 6.8 bushels from last year. If realized, yield and production would be the second largest on record, behind 2004. Forecast yields are higher than August across the northern Great Plains and western Corn Belt as moderate to heavy precipitation during the month improved soil moisture levels and crop conditions. Expected yields across the eastern Corn Belt are unchanged from last month. Farmers expect to harvest 71.8 million acres of corn for grain, down 250,000 acres from August and down 4 percent from 2005.

U.S. **Soybean** production is forecast at 3.09 billion bushels, up 6 percent from the August forecast and up slightly from the 2005 crop. If realized, this would be the second highest production on record. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.8 bushels per acre, up 2.2 bushels from August but down 1.5 bushels from last year's record high yield. Compared with last month, yields are forecast higher across the Corn Belt and most of the northern and central Great Plains. Near or above normal moisture in those areas during August improved crop conditions. In contrast, yields are down or unchanged from the August 1 forecast across the Gulf Coast States and Atlantic Coast States, with the exception of South Carolina.

All U.S. **Cotton** production is forecast at 20.3 million 480-pound bales, down slightly from last month and down 15 percent from last year's record high production. Yield is expected to average 762 pounds per acre, down 3 pounds from last month and down 69 pounds from last year. The September harvested area is expected to total 12.8 million acres, virtually unchanged from last month but down 7 percent from last year. Lower production forecasts from last month in the Southeast and California were partially offset by higher production in the Southwest and Texas.

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