



NEWS RELEASE

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



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CORN AND TOBACCO ACREAGES DECREASE, AS SOYBEANS, COTTON, HAY, AND WHEAT ACREAGES INCREASE

According to a survey conducted in early June by the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office, Virginia's farmers will have fewer acres of corn and tobacco, crops in 2008. Soybeans and winter wheat acreages were up 10 percent and 30 percent. Cotton and hay increased by 8 percent.

Corn producers in the Commonwealth reported that planting was completed at 480,000 acres, about 13 percent less than a year ago. Corn producers expect to harvest 360,000 acres for grain in 2008, which is 45,000 less acres when compared to last year.

Virginia farmers planted 65,000 acres of cotton this year, which is about an 8 percent increase from last year. Barley seeded acreage increased 27 percent from last year and is estimated at 61,000 acres. Barley producers anticipate harvesting 36,000 acres, which is 6,000 acres more than a year ago.

Soybean producers in Virginia planted 550,000 acres of soybeans in 2008, up 10 percent from 2007. As of June 22, 2008, 76 percent of the crop was planted.

All hay increased 8 percent from the previous year. Other hay acreage increased by 120,000 acres this year to 1,350,000 acres, up about 10 percent from last year. Alfalfa hay decreased by 10,000 acres when compared to 2007, which leave 100,000 acres harvested.

Peanut producers in Virginia planted 22,000 acres this year, which is no change from last year. Producers expect to harvest 22,000 acres of peanuts in 2008, up 1,000 acres from 2007.

Burley producers plan to harvest 2,100 acres which is down 100 acres from last year. Acres of flue-cured tobacco are down 1,000 acres to 17,000 acres when compared to 2007. Acres of fire-cured tobacco are up 400 acres, no change from the previous year acres.

Winter wheat acres seeded last fall for this season were 300,000 acres, which is about a 30 percent increase from 2007. Wheat producers are expecting to harvest 260,000 acres, which is 55,000 acres more than last year.

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Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

Corn Planted Acreage Down 7 Percent from 2007
Soybean Acreage Up 17 Percent
All Wheat Acreage Up 5 Percent
All Cotton Acreage Down 15 Percent

Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Despite the decrease, corn planted acreage is the second highest since 1946, behind last year's total of 93.6 million acres. Growers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres for grain, down 9 percent from 2007. If realized, this would be the second highest since 1944, behind last year. Farmers increased corn plantings 1.31 million acres from their March intentions. Farmers reported that 97 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the June survey interview compared with the average of 98 percent for the past 10 years.

Soybean planted area for 2008 is estimated at 74.5 million acres, up 17 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Area for harvest, at 72.1 million acres, is up 15 percent from 2007. Compared with last year, planted acreage increases are expected in all States, and the U.S. planted area for soybeans is the third largest on record. The largest increase is expected in Nebraska, up 950,000 acres from 2007, followed by Illinois and South Dakota, both up 900,000 acres. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record. Nationally, farmers reported that 79 percent of the intended soybean acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, which is the lowest since 1996.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 63.5 million acres, up 5 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.6 million acres, is 4 percent above last year but down slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 11.0 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.7 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2008 is estimated at 14.2 million acres, up 7 percent from 2007. Of this total, about 13.4 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The Durum planted area for 2008 is 2.66 million acres, up 24 percent from the previous year.

All Cotton plantings for 2008 are estimated at 9.25 million acres, 15 percent below last year and the lowest since 1983. Upland planted area is estimated at 9.04 million acres, down 14 percent from 2007. Decreased planted acres are estimated for all States except Oklahoma and Virginia. The largest percentage declines are in California and Mississippi where upland producers planted 44 percent fewer acres than last year at 110,000 acres and 370,000 acres, respectively.

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