



NEWS RELEASE

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



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Number:14

Released: July 11, 2008

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

Virginia's wheat producers expect yields to average 71 bushels per acre in 2008, according to a survey conducted by the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office. This is up 5 bushels per acre from last month's forecast. Yield forecasts are based on conditions as of July 1. Wheat production in Virginia is expected to total nearly 18.5 million bushels, up 41 percent from last year's total wheat crop of 13.1 million bushels. Producers expect to harvest 260,000 acres of wheat, 55,000 acres more than in 2007.

Barley yields in Virginia are expected to average 83 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels per acre from last year. Barley production is expected to total nearly 3.0 million bushels, up 40 percent from 2007. Harvested acreage is expected to total 36,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from last year.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT IN 2008 PEACH PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

Virginia's 2008 flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 42.5 million pounds, up 4 percent from 2007. This increase in production results from anticipated good yields. Acres harvested are estimated at 17,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from last year. The yield forecast at 2,500 pounds to the acre, is up 220 pounds from last year.

Virginia's 2008 peach crop is expected to total 4,200 tons. This production forecast is based on crop conditions as of July 1. If realized, this year's estimated production would be up 2,600 tons from last year's freeze damaged crop.

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WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT FROM JUNE

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.86 billion bushels. This is up 3 percent from last month and 23 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 4.1 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 12 percent from last year.

Hard Red Winter, at 1.04 billion bushels, is up 1 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter, at 607 million bushels, is up 6 percent from the last forecast. White Winter is up 1 percent from last month and now totals 218 million bushels. Of this total, 23.3 million bushels are Hard White and 194 million bushels are Soft White.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 89.9 million bushels, up 25 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 34.8 bushels per acre, 0.9 bushel above last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 2.58 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 22 percent from last year.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 507 million bushels, 6 percent above 2007. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 13.8 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 6 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 36.8 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from 2007. Of the total production, 471 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 5 percent from last year.

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