



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## **VIRGINIA'S WHEAT AND OAT PRODUCTION UP FROM 2005**

Virginia's wheat production was up from last year, according to the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office. These results were based on a survey of producers conducted in early September. Wheat production for 2006 totaled over 10.5 million bushels, up 5 percent from last year. Wheat acreage harvested was 155,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2005. Producers averaged a record 68 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels per acre from last year. Although the growing season was some what dry, rains came at the critical time.

The survey indicated that final oat production for the 2006 crop year was 220,000 bushels, up 20 percent from last year. Oat yields averaged 55 bushels per acre, down 6 bushels from last year.

Barley producers averaged 77 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels from 2005. Barley production is estimated at 3.2 million bushels harvested from 42,000 acres. This compares to 3.9 million bushels and 45,000 acres harvested last year.

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Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture  
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## Small Grains 2006 Summary

All U.S. **Wheat** production totals 1.81 billion bushels in 2006, up 1 percent from the last forecast but 14 percent below 2005. Grain area is 46.8 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 38.7 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from August but down 3.3 bushels from last year. The level of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.30 billion bushels, down 13 percent; other spring wheat, 460 million bushels, down 9 percent; Durum wheat, 53.5 million bushels, down 47 percent.

All U.S. **Oat** production is estimated at a record low 93.8 million bushels, 13 percent below the August 1 forecast and 18 percent below last year's 115 million bushels. The estimated yield is 59.5 bushels per acre, up 3.2 bushels from August but down 3.5 bushels from a year ago. Compared with last year, yields declined in nearly all States except for those in the eastern Great Lakes region, Ohio Valley, and the Pacific Northwest. Harvested area is a record low 1.58 million acres, 17 percent below the August 1 forecast and 14 percent below last year.

All U.S. **Barley** production is estimated at 180 million bushels, down 2 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 15 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 61.0 bushels, is down 0.2 bushel from the previous forecast and 3.8 bushels below 2005. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 2.95 million acres, down 1 percent from August and 10 percent below a year ago. Area harvested for grain is the lowest since 1885, while production is the lowest since 1936. Harvested area is down in most States, including the four States with the largest acreage. Acreage harvested is down 90,000 in Idaho, 80,000 in Montana, 65,000 in North Dakota, and 15,000 in Washington. Production is down throughout the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, partly due to the decreased acreage, but also because yields are down in these areas due to dry conditions during most of the growing season. However, yields are higher than last year in the Pacific Northwest, Corn Belt, Ohio River Valley, and most Atlantic Coast States.

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