



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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VIRGINIA YIELD FORECASTS ARE DOWN FOR CORN, SOYBEANS AND HAY

Based on conditions as of October 1, Virginia corn yields are forecast to average 80 bushels per acre, down 40 bushels per acre from last year. If realized, production would be 32 million bushels, down 23 percent from 2006. Producers expect to harvest 400,000 acres for grain this year.

Cotton producers currently expect to harvest 59,000 acres, down 45,000 acres from 2006. Yield is forecast to be 586 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 72,000 bales, down 54 percent from last year.

Virginia's soybean yields are expected to be 25 bushels per acre which is 6 bushels per acre less than last year. Production is estimated at 12.25 million bushels, down 23 percent from 2006. Harvested acres are at 490,000, down 20,000 acres from last year.

Peanut yields are forecast to average 2,000 pounds per acre, down 1,200 pounds per acre from 2006. Production is forecast at 42 million pounds, down 23 percent from last year. Harvesting activities have begun with 40 percent of the crop combined.

Alfalfa hay production is expected to be 275,000 tons, down 31 percent from last year. Alfalfa yield is expected to average 2.5 tons per acre, 1.1 tons per acre less than in 2006. Other hay yield is expected to be 1.8 tons per acre. Other hay production is forecast at 2.1 million tons, down 15 percent from 2006.

Flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,000 pounds per acre, down 430 pounds per acre from 2006. Production is estimated to be 36 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year.

Fire-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,000 pounds per acre, down 90 pounds per acre from the 2006 estimate. If realized, production will total 800 thousand pounds, up 9 percent from last year due to increased acreage.

Burley tobacco producers expect to average a yield of 1,800 pounds per acre as compared to 2000 pounds per acre in 2006. Production is forecast to be 3.96 million pounds, down 14 percent from last year.

Apple production in Virginia is forecast to be 210 million pounds, down 10 million pounds from last year. As of October 1 fall apple harvest was 84 percent completed, with the winter varieties harvest at 35 percent complete.

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U.S. Corn Production Up Slightly from September
U.S. Soybean Production Down Less Than 1 Percent
U.S. Cotton Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. Corn production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and 26 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 154.7 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from September but 5.6 bushels above last year. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record, behind the 160.4 bushel yield in 2004. Production would be the largest on record as growers expect to harvest the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Forecast yields are higher than last year across the Great Plains, central Corn Belt and Delta where adequate rainfall during much of the season provided favorable growing conditions. Expected yields across the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic States are down from last year as drought conditions during much of the growing season reduced soil moisture levels and stressed the crop.

U.S. Soybean production is forecast at 2.60 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast and down 19 percent from last year's record high. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but down 1.3 bushels from last year. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and most of the Atlantic Coast States. Hot, dry conditions continued to cause most of the decline, especially in Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, and the Carolinas, all down at least 2 bushels from last month. Yields increased from the September 1 forecast in Iowa, Ohio, New York, the Dakotas, and most of the Gulf Coast States.

All U.S. Cotton production is forecast at 18.2 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from last month but down 16 percent from last year's 21.6 million bales. Yield is expected to average 826 pounds per harvested acre, up 15 pounds from last month and up 12 pounds from 2006. If realized, the yield will be the third largest on record. Harvested area of all cotton is expected to total 10.5 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 17 percent from last year. Upland cotton production is forecast at 17.4 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from last month but down 17 percent from last year. Growers in the Southeast are expecting lower production than last month. However, in the Delta and Southwest regions, producers are expecting higher production than last month with record yields forecast in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. American-Pima production is forecast at a record high 775,500 bales, down 2 percent from last month but up 1 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested area is expected to total 289,000 acres, unchanged from last month but down 11 percent from 2006.