



NEWS RELEASE

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VIRGINIA'S CORN, WINTER WHEAT, AND COTTON PRODUCERS EXPECT HIGHER YIELDS IN 2008

Winter wheat yield is forecast at a record 73 bushels per acre compared with 64 bushels per acre a year earlier. Production is expected to total 18.9 million bushels which is up 45 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage is up 55,000 acres from 2007 to 260,000 acres.

Soybean producers currently expect to harvest 530,000 acres with an average yield of 29 bushels per acre. Production is expected to total nearly 15.4 million bushels, up 19 percent from last year.

Virginia's corn yields are expected to be 104 bushels per acre, up 19 bushels per acre from last year. Production is estimated at 37.4 million bushels, up 9 percent from 2007. Harvested acres are estimated at 360,000.

Cotton yield is forecast to average 833 pounds per acre, up slightly from last year's 829 pounds per acre. If realized, production would be 111,000 bales, up 9 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 64,000 acres in 2008, up 8 percent from last year.

Peanut harvest is expected to be 22,000 acres, up 5 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 2,900 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from last year's yield. Resulting production will be 13 percent above 2007 at 63.8 million pounds.

Hay producers expect to harvest 100,000 acres of alfalfa hay with an average yield of 2.9 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 290,000 tons, up 5 percent from 2007. There are nearly 1.4 million acres of other hay expected to be harvested in Virginia. The yield for other hay is expected to average 2.0 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 2.70 million tons, up 22 percent from the previous year.

Barley yields averaged 85 bushels per acre, up 14 bushels per acre from last year. The resulting production will total almost 3.1 million bushels. Barley producers harvested 36,000 acres, which was up 6,000 acres from last year.

Flue tobacco producers currently expect yields to average 2,300 pounds, up 1 percent from 2007. Production will total 39.1 million pounds from 17,000 acres. Harvested acreage decreased 1,000 acres from last year.

Burley yields are expected to average 2,000 pounds, up slightly from last year. Production is expected to total 4.2 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2007. Producers expect to harvest 2,100 acres, down 100 acres from the previous year.

Fire-cured tobacco yields are expected to average 2,000 pounds per acre, up slightly from 2007. Production is expected to total 800,000 pounds, up 4 percent from 2007. Producers expect to harvest 400 acres in 2008, unchanged from last year.

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Corn Production Down 6 Percent from 2007
Soybean Production Up 15 Percent from Last Year
Cotton Production Down 28 Percent from 2007
All Wheat Production Virtually Unchanged from July Forecast

All U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent from last year but 17 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 155.0 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels from last year. If realized, this yield would be the second highest on record, behind 2004. Production would be the second highest on record, behind last year when producers harvested the most acres of corn for grain since 1933. Forecasted yields are higher than last year in the northern and eastern Corn Belt, Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, and northern half of the Atlantic Coast where frequent precipitation this year contrasted with extremely dry weather last year. Expected yields across the southern half of the Great Plains and the Carolinas are below last year due to drought-like conditions throughout much of the growing season. Growers expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, up 350,000 acres from June but 8 percent lower than last year.

All U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 15 percent from last year but down 7 percent from the record high production of 2006. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.5 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from 2007. Compared with last year, yields are forecast lower in Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Texas, and across the northern and central Great Plains. In contrast, yield prospects are forecast higher than last year or unchanged across the remainder of the country, with the largest increases in Kentucky and Tennessee, up 13 and 12 bushels from last year, respectively. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 73.3 million acres, up 2 percent from June and up 17 percent from 2007.

All U.S. **cotton** production is forecast at 13.8 million 480-pound bales, down 28 percent from last year's 19.2 million bales. Yield is expected to average 842 pounds per harvested acre, down 37 pounds from the record yield in 2007. Upland cotton production is forecast at 13.2 million 480-pound bales, 28 percent below 2007. Producers in the Southeast region are expecting increased yields from last year, while producers in Texas expect a lower yield than the record high received in 2007. American-Pima production is forecast at 521,800 bales, down 39 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 7.85 million acres of all cotton and 7.66 million acres of upland cotton, both down 25 percent from last year and the lowest harvested acreage since 1983. American-Pima harvested area is expected to total 193,900 acres, down 33 percent from 2007.

All U.S. **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.87 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month and 24 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.6 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and up 4.4 bushel from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 12 percent from last year.



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