



NEWS RELEASE

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VIRGINIA'S CORN, SOYBEAN AND ALFALFA HAY PRODUCERS EXPECT HIGHER YIELDS IN 2006

Based on conditions as of October 1, Virginia corn yields are forecast to average 125 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels per acre from last year. If realized, production would be 43.1 million bushels up 2 percent from 2005. Producers expect to harvest 345,000 acres for grain this year.

Cotton producers currently expect to harvest 104,000 acres with an average yield of 822 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 178,000 bales, down 3 percent from last year.

Virginia's soybean yields are expected to be 31 bushels per acre which is 1 bushel per acre greater than last year. Production is estimated at 15.5 million bushels, up 1 percent from 2005. Harvested acres are at 500,000, down 10,000 acres from last year.

The forecasted peanut yield of 2,950 pounds per acre is down 50 pounds per acre from 2005. Production is forecast at 47.0 million pounds, down 28 percent from last year. Harvesting activities have begun with 35 percent of the crop combined.

Alfalfa hay production is expected to be up 21 percent from last year to 480,000 tons. Alfalfa yield is expected to average 4 tons per acre, .4 of a ton per acre greater than in 2005. The forecasted yield for other hay is 1.7 tons per acre. Other hay production is forecast at 1.96 million tons, down 38 percent from 2005.

Flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,400 pounds per acre, down 10 pounds from 2005. Production is estimated to be 40.8 million pounds, up 21 percent from last year.

Fire-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,100 pounds, up 150 pounds from the 2005 estimate. If realized, production would total 735 thousand pounds, up slightly from last year.

Burley tobacco producers expect to average a yield of 2,000 pounds per acre from 2,500 acres. Production is forecast at 5.0 million pounds, down 880 thousand pounds from last year.

Apple production in Virginia is forecast at 240 million pounds, down 40 million pounds from last year. As of October 1 fall apple harvest was 85 percent completed, with the winter varieties harvest at 25 percent complete.

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Corn Production Down 2 Percent from September Soybean Production Up 3 Percent from September Cotton Production Up 2 Percent from September

All U.S. corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, down 2 percent from both last month and 2005. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 153.5 bushels per acre, down 1.2 bushels from September but 5.6 bushels higher than last year. If realized, the yield would be the second largest on record, behind 2004. Forecast yields are lower than September across the central Corn Belt as early harvest results revealed that the hot, dry summer conditions had reduced yield potential more than anticipated. However, producers in the northern and eastern Corn Belt reported better than expected yields due mainly to timely rainfall during the growing season. Expected yields across the northern and southern Great Plains are unchanged from last month. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States bringing total corn planted acres to 78.6 million acres, down 1 percent from June and 4 percent lower than 2005. Area harvested and to be harvested for grain, at 71.0 million acres, is down 1 percent from September and 5 percent below 2005.

All U.S. soybean production is forecast at 3.19 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the September forecast and up 4 percent from the 2005 crop. If realized, this would be the highest production on record. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.8 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from September but down 0.2 bushel from last year's record high yield. Compared with last month, yield forecasts are unchanged or higher in all States except South Dakota. The States with the largest expected increase from September are Illinois and Virginia, both up 3.0 bushels from last month. Timely rains and cooler temperatures improved yield expectations in the central and northern Corn Belt. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States with soybean planted area now at 75.6 million acres, up 1 percent from June and up 5 percent from 2005. Expected area for harvest, at 74.5 million acres, is up 1 percent from September and 5 percent above 2005. Revised 2005 soybean acreage, yield, and production were published in the September 29, 2006 Grain Stocks report.

All U.S. cotton production is forecast at 20.7 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from last month but down 14 percent from last year's record high production. Yield is expected to average 774 pounds per acre, up 12 pounds from last month but down 57 pounds from last year. The October harvested area is expected to total 12.8 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 7 percent from 2005. The higher production forecast is a result of better than expected yields throughout the Delta and parts of the Southeast.

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