

NEWS RELEASE



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



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2005 Annual Crop Summary

During the spring and early summer, there was adequate moisture for Virginia's row crops. Mid to late summer conditions were hot and dry, reducing the potential yields for corn and short season soybeans. Most of the state received good rains the first week of July which benefited full season soybeans, late corn and cotton.

Corn for grain yields averaged 118 bushels per acre, 27 bushels less than the previous year's yield. Production is estimated at 42.5 million bushels, 19 percent below the 2004 production. Acres harvested for grain at 360,000, was the same as last year. Corn silage acres harvested totaled 125,000 acres, with a yield of 17.0 tons per acre.

Soybeans yielded an average 30 bushels per acre, 9 bushels below 2004. A total of 510,000 acres were harvested for beans, which compares with 530,000 acres harvested last year and 480,000 acres two years ago. Soybean production is estimated at 15.3 million bushels, 26 percent less than last year's production.

Virginia's peanut producers harvested an average of 3,000 pounds per acre this season, 250 pounds per acre less than last year. Peanut production is estimated at 66.0 million pounds, down 37 percent from the 2004 production.

Cotton production is estimated at 185,000 bales, up 15 percent from 2004. The cotton yield forecast is 965 pounds per acre, up 9 pounds from 2004's yield. Producers harvested 92,000 acres in 2005 and increase of 11,000 acres from last year.

Flue-cured tobacco yields averaged 2,450 pounds per acre, 55 pounds below the record of 2,505 pounds per acre harvested in 2004. Virginia's production is expected to total 34.3 million pounds, down 40 percent from last year. Burley tobacco yield is estimated at 1,800 pounds per acre, up 410 pounds from 2004. Burley production is estimated at 4.9 million pounds, down 41 percent from last year. The large drop in tobacco production is attributed to the demise of the federal quota system.

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U.S. Record High Cotton Production.

All U.S. corn for grain production is estimated at 11.1 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the November forecast but down 6 percent from the 11.8 billion bushels produced in 2004. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 147.9 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from the November forecast and down 12.5 bushels from 2004. The 2005 production and yield estimates are the second largest on record, behind last year. Area harvested for grain, at 75.1 million acres, is up 2 percent from 2004.

All U.S. sorghum for grain production in 2005 is estimated at 394 million bushels, up 2 percent from the November forecast but 13 percent below 2004. Area harvested for rain is estimated at 5.74 million acres, down 12 percent from 2004. Average grain yield, at 68.7 bushels per acre, is 0.9 bushel below the 2004 average yield.

All U.S. soybean production in 2005 totaled 3.09 billion bushels, the second largest U.S. soybean crop on record. This is up 1 percent from the November forecast but 1 percent below the record-setting 2004 crop. The average yield per acre is estimated at a record high 43.3 bushels, 0.6 bushel above the November forecast and 1.1 bushels above the 2004 final yield. Harvested area is down 4 percent from 2004, to 71.4 million acres.

All U.S. cotton production is estimated at a record high 23.7 million bales, up fractionally from last month and 2 percent more than last year's production. Yield is expected to average 831 pounds per acre, down 24 pounds per acre from the previous year. Production surpasses the previous record high set last year, while yield is the second highest on record. Harvested area, at 13.7 million acres, is up 30,000 acres from December and 5 percent above 2004.

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