

CROPS

GENERAL

Growing conditions favored Corn as grain yields were up from normal yields and set a new record high of 131.0 bushels per acre. The record yield was up 16 bushels from 2003. Hay yields were only down slightly from the previous year, while wheat yields were up substantially from 2003. Soybean producers had a good year with yields averaging 5 bushels per acre more than 2003. Tobacco transplanting was behind in the early season stages as compared to the previous year, but by the middle of the transplanting season it was about normal for the year. Tobacco yields were slightly below normal.

ALL FORAGE

Total acres for all forage totaled 594,000, up 6 percent from 2003. All forage dry equivalent yield averaged 1.88 tons per acre, down 0.17 ton from the previous year. Production was 1,115,000 tons, down 2 percent.

ALL HAY

All hay harvested area in 2004 totaled 575,000 acres, up 30,000 from 2003. The average yield of 1.85 tons per acre was down 0.1 ton from the previous year. Production totaled 1.062 million tons, down from 1.063 million tons in 2003. Value of production totaled \$60 million, 2 percent below 2003. Price per ton averaged \$56.50, down \$1.00 from the revised average for 2003.

ALFALFA & ALFALFA MIXTURES

Alfalfa hay area harvested totaled 45,000 acres in 2004, unchanged from 2003. Yields in 2004 averaged 2.4 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from 2003. Production totaled 108,000 tons, down 5,000 tons from 2003. Value of production totaled \$11.3 million, down 3 percent from 2003. Average price per ton was \$105.00, up \$2.00 from the revised average for 2003. New seedings of alfalfa in 2004 were estimated at 3,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from 2003 seedings.

OTHER HAY

All other hay area harvested totaled 530,000 acres in 2004, up 30,000 acres from 2003. Yields averaged 1.8 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from 2003. Production totaled 954,000 tons, up 4,000 tons from 2003. Value of production totaled \$48.7 million, down 2 percent from the revised value for 2003. Price per ton averaged \$51.00, down \$1.00 from the revised average in 2003.

CORN

Area planted to corn for all purposes in 2004 totaled 48,000 acres, unchanged from 2003. Harvested area for grain totaled 29,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from 2003. The average yield of 131.0 bushels per acre, a record high, was up 16 bushels from the previous year's yield. Production was 3.8 million bushels, up 22 percent from 2003. Value of production totaled \$8.0 million, down 6 percent from the revised value for 2003. Average price per bushel was \$2.10, down \$0.62 from the revised average for 2003. Corn for silage area harvested was 18,000 acres in 2004, down 1,000 acres from 2003. Yields averaged 17.0 tons per acre which was up 1.5 tons from the previous year's yield. Silage production was estimated at 306,000 tons, up 4 percent from 2003.

SOYBEANS

Area planted to soybeans totaled 19,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from 2003. Area harvested for beans totaled 18,000 acres, also up 3,000 acres from 2003. The yield for soybeans in 2004 averaged 46.0 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from 2003. Production was estimated at 828,000 bushels, up 35 percent from 2003. Value of production totaled \$4.3 million, down 8 percent from the revised value for 2003. Price per bushel averaged \$5.15, down \$2.39 from the revised average for 2003.

WHEAT

Wheat planted acres totaled 8,000 in 2004, down 4,000 acres from 2003. Area harvested for grain totaled 5,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from the 2003. The average yield for 2004 was estimated to be 52.0 bushels per acre. This was up 11 bushels from the previous year. Production was estimated at 260,000 bushels, down 9 percent, or 27,000 bushels from 2003. Value of production totaled \$819 thousand, down 9 percent from the revised value for 2003. Price per bushel averaged \$3.15, up \$0.02 from the revised average for 2003.

TOBACCO

Burley tobacco area harvested totaled 1,300 acres in 2004, up 100 acres from the previous year. Yields averaged 1,300 pounds per acre, the same as 2003. Production for burley tobacco totaled 1.69 million pounds in 2004, up 8 percent from last year. Value of production totaled \$3.4 million, up 9 percent from the revised value in 2003. Average price per pound was \$1.990, up \$0.012 from the revised average for 2003.