



# News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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## OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

**WEST VIRGINIA** - The forecast for the 2011 **apple production** is 73.5 million pounds (1.75 million, 42-lb. bushel equivalents), unchanged from the August 1 forecast and up 9.5 million pounds or 15 percent from the 2010 crop. Growers reported frost, drought, and insect damage to their 2010 crops.

**Other hay production** is forecast at 1,220,000 tons, up 33 percent from the August 1 forecast of 915,000 tons and up 36 percent from the 2010 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 610,000 acres in 2011, this is unchanged from the August 1 forecast and up 10,000 acres from 2010. Yield is expected to average 2.0 tons per acre, up 0.5 ton from the August 1 forecast and also from last year's yield. October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2012.

**UNITED STATES** - The final 2011 United States **apple production** forecast is 9.43 billion pounds, down 1 percent from August but 1 percent above 2010.

Production in the Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) is forecast at 5.78 billion pounds, 2 percent below the previous forecast. Washington growers experienced their coldest April in history and an exceptionally cool, wet May. The effects of the cold wet spring along with winter freeze damage were expected to keep production below full potential this year.

Production in the Eastern States (Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia) is forecast at 2.33 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous forecast. New York producers reported loss due to damage from the rain and strong winds caused by Hurricane Irene. Pennsylvania growers reported heavy disease problems. Hail storms, drought, and frost led to smaller, undesirable apples.

Production in the Central States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin) is forecast at 1.32 billion pounds, an increase of 4 percent from August. In Michigan, yield reports have been very good, while harvest progress has been slightly behind normal.

**Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production** is forecast at 64.7 million tons, down fractionally from the August 1 forecast and down 5 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.35 tons per acre, down 0.01 ton from August 1 and 0.05 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 19.3 million acres, unchanged from June but down 3 percent from the previous year's acreage.

Adequate rainfall in portions of the West led to increases in expected yields. Most notably, a record-setting yield is forecast for Idaho, where warmer temperatures this fall have allowed producers a longer haying season. Elsewhere, predominately hot, dry weather in the Four Corners region as well as the southern Great Plains adversely affected much of the alfalfa crop. Producers in Oklahoma are expected to harvest the lowest alfalfa yield since 1956, while producers in Texas are expecting the lowest yield since 1970.

**Other hay production** is forecast at 67.0 million tons, down fractionally from the August 1 forecast and down 14 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production level since 1993. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.75 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but down 0.20 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States yield since 1988. Harvested area is forecast at 38.3 million acres, unchanged from June but down 4 percent from last year.

Abundant late-August and early-September rainfall stemming from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee led to increased growth in many pastures and grass hay fields in the Delta, Tennessee Valley, and in several States along the Mid-Atlantic Coast. Elsewhere, continued hot, dry weather throughout much of the Great Plains and Southwest led to further declines in expected yields. The historic drought experienced by producers in Oklahoma and Texas has negatively impacted hay fields, leading to the lowest expected yield since 1956 for both States.

**Corn production** is forecast at 12.4 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the September forecast and down slightly from the 2010 production estimate. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production total on record for the United States. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 148.1 bushels per acre, unchanged from the September forecast but down 4.7 bushels from 2010. If realized, this will be the lowest average yield since 2005. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 83.9 million acres, down 1 percent from the September forecast. Acreage updates were made in several States based on administrative data.

**Soybean production** is forecast at 3.06 billion bushels, down 1 percent from September and down 8 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.5 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from last month and down 2 bushels from last year. If realized, the average yield will be the second lowest since 2003. Area for harvest is forecast at 73.7 million acres, down slightly from September and down 4 percent from 2010.