

Warm, Dry September Leads to Increase in Expected Corn Yields

Wisconsin corn harvested for grain acres are anticipated to be 2.90 million acres, up 50,000 acres from earlier estimates. Corn in the state is expected to yield 144 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from the September forecast as warm, dryer temperatures helped to push the crop to maturity. Total production is forecast at 418 million bushels of corn, up 5.8 percent from last year's 395 million bushels. If realized, this would be Wisconsin's third highest production on record and second highest yield.

Nationally, corn production is forecast at 13.0 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and 8 percent higher than 2008. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 164.2 bushels per acre, up 2.3 bushels from September and 10.3 bushels above last year. If realized, this yield will be the highest on record and total production will be second only to the record set in 2007. Yield forecasts remained unchanged or increased from last month across the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and Ohio Valley where warm, dry weather during much of September helped push the late-developing corn crop towards maturity. Light frost was reported in parts of the northern tier of the Great Plains and Corn Belt in late September. However, temperatures were not considered low enough to terminate crop growth. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, down 1 percent from the September forecast but 1 percent above 2008.

Statewide, soybean acreage to be harvested is forecast at 1.63 million acres, with an average yield of 39 bushels per acre, both unchanged from the September forecast. Total production for the state is anticipated to be 63.6 million bushels, 14 percent above last year. If realized, this would be Wisconsin's fourth largest soybean harvest.

U.S. soybean production is forecast at a record high 3.25 billion bushels, up slightly from the September forecast and up 10 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.4 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month and up 2.7 bushels from 2008. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record. Compared with last month, yields are forecast higher or unchanged in all States except Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, and New York. The largest decrease in yield from the September forecast is expected in Mississippi where persistent rain during the last two weeks of the month increased the potential impact of disease. Increases of 2 bushels are expected in Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Virginia. If realized, the forecasted yield in Alabama, Georgia, and Nebraska will be a record high and the forecasted yield in Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania will tie the previous record high. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 76.6 million acres, down slightly from the previous estimate but up 3 percent from 2008.

Alfalfa harvest in Wisconsin is expected to total 4.19 million tons for dry hay in 2009, up 3 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 2.70 tons per acre, equal to last year. Nationally, farmers are expected to harvest 21.0 million acres, up slightly from 2008. Yields are expected to be a tenth of a ton higher than last year at 3.43 tons per acre. Total production is expected to be 72.0 million tons, 3 percent above last year.

Wisconsin's harvested acres of other types of hay is expected to be 380,000 acres, 20,000 acres below last year. The expected yield of 1.90 tons per acre is equal to 2008. Total production is anticipated to be 722,000 tons. Nationally, harvested acreage and yield of other types of hay are expected to increase. Yield is forecast at 2.06 tons per acre, 0.11 tons above last year. Harvested acres are expected to be 39.2 million acres. Total production is expected to be 80.8 million tons.

CROP SUMMARY, 2008 and Forecasted October 1, 2009

Crop	Harvested acres (thousands)		Unit	Yield per acre		Production (thousands)		Production % change 2009/08
	2008	2009		2008	2009	2008	2009	
WISCONSIN								
Corn for grain	2,880	2,900	Bu.	137.0	144.0	394,560	417,600	+6
Soybeans for beans	1,590	1,630	Bu.	35.0	39.0	55,650	63,570	+14
Hay, all (dry only)	1,900	1,930	Ton	2.53	2.54	4,810	4,907	+2
Alfalfa, (dry only)	1,500	1,550	Ton	2.70	2.70	4,050	4,185	+3
All other, (dry only)	400	380	Ton	1.90	1.90	760	722	-5
UNITED STATES								
Corn for grain	78,640	79,294	Bu.	153.9	164.2	12,101,238	13,018,058	+8
Soybeans for beans	74,681	76,619	Bu.	39.7	42.4	2,967,007	3,250,113	+10
Hay, all (dry only)	60,062	60,177	Ton	2.43	2.54	145,672	152,729	+5
Alfalfa, (dry only)	20,980	20,982	Ton	3.32	3.43	69,620	71,977	+3
All other, (dry only)	39,082	39,195	Ton	1.95	2.06	76,052	80,752	+6

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO