



Maryland Agriculture Data

Media Summary



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Growers are Optimistic about 2003 Corn and Soybean Yields

Maryland: Despite any difficulties they may have encountered in getting their corn and soybean fields planted, farmers are optimistic about the final result. Projected **corn** for grain yield is 131 bushels per acre, up significantly from the yield realized during the drought last year of 76 bushels per acre, and 15 percent above the five-year average of 114 bushels per acre. However, land planted to corn fell below the 530,000 acres projected in June, to 510,000 acres. Growers plan to harvest 430,000 of these acres for grain. Corn production is forecast at 56.3 million bushels, up 74 percent from last year, and 23 percent above the five-year average of 45.6 million bushels. According to the Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending August 3, corn condition was rated 17 percent excellent, 35 percent good, 25 percent fair, 15 percent poor and 8 percent very poor.

The **soybean** yield is forecast to be 31 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from 2002's final estimate of 23 bushels per acre, but below the five-year average of 34 bushels per acre. Land planted to soybeans fell short of original expectations, and is now estimated to be 460,000 acres. Growers expect to harvest 450,000 acres. Soybean production is forecast at 13.9 million bushels, exceeding the 10.8 million bushels harvested in 2002 by 29 percent, although less than the five-year average of 14.5 million bushels. From the Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending August 4, soybean condition was rated 7 percent excellent, 34 percent good, and 28 percent fair, 21 percent poor, and 10 percent very poor.

Small grain harvest is now complete. Maryland farms produced 2.4 million pounds of **barley**, down 27 percent from 2002, for an average yield of 61 bushels per acre. **Wheat** production dropped substantially - far below the original projection and less than half of the normal crop. Only 5.4 million bushels of wheat was harvested, down 45 percent from 2002 and 47 percent below the five-year average of 11.6 million bushels.

Tobacco is expected to yield 1,400 lbs. per acre, identical to last year's yield. Acreage planted has dropped another 200 acres to 1,500 acres. Tobacco production is forecast at 2.1 million pounds for 2003, down 12 percent from 2002's production estimate of 2.4 million pounds.

Apple production is forecast at 37.0 million pounds, up 16 percent from 32 million pounds in 2002.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 10.1 billion bushels, up 12 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2001. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 139.9 bushels per acre, up 9.9 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set in 1994 when production was estimated at slightly below the 10.1 billion bushels being forecast for 2003 and yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields are higher in all States east of the Mississippi River as favorable precipitation and temperatures have been received since planting occurred. With the exception of Iowa and Minnesota, forecasted yields in all the Corn Belt States are increasing from last year. However, both States are forecasting lower yields from record 2002 estimates. Farmers expect to harvest 71.9 million acres of corn for grain, down 70,000 acres from June but up 4 percent from 2002.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 5 percent from 2002 but down 1 percent from 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.4 bushels per acre, up 1.6 bushels from 2002. Yields are higher than 2002 across much of the United States. However, the average yield in Iowa, Minnesota, and Oklahoma is expected to be lower, while yields are expected to be the same in Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and North Dakota. Area for harvest, at 72.6 million acres is down 55,000 acres from June but up 1 percent from 2002 acreage.

All **wheat** production is placed at 2.29 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the July forecast but up 42 percent from 2002. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushels from last month.

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The Maryland Agriculture Statistics Service

50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 841-5740 Fax (410) 841-5755

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ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2002 AND 2003

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	510	510	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	425	430	76	131	32,300	56,330
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	80	----	12	----	960	----
Soybeans	BU	490	460	470	450	23	31	10,810	13,950
Sorghum ¹	BU	5	5	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	4	4	47	----	188	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	1	---	11	----	11	----
Winter Wheat	BU	195	165	180	150	66	36	11,880	5,400
Barley	BU	45	45	41	40	82	61	3,362	2,440
All Hay	TON	----	----	220	215	2.3	----	508	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	60	50	2.6	----	156	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	160	165	2.2	----	352	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	1.7	1.5	1,400	1,400	2,380	2,100
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	32,000	37,000
Potatoes,Summer	CWT	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	250	240	1,175	1,104
United States								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	79,054	79,066	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	69,313	71,915	130	----	9,008	10,064
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	7,490	----	14	----	105	----
Soybeans	BU	73,758	73,653	72,160	72,626	37.8	39.4	2,730	2,862
Sorghum ¹	BU	9,580	9,777	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	7,299	8,241	50.7	54.4	370	448
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	352	----	9.5	----	3	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	41,735	44,349	29,651	36,491	39	47	1,143	1,712
Barley	BU	5,073	5,461	4,135	4,899	55	58	227	281
All Hay	TON	----	----	64,497	64,379	2.34	2.49	151	160
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.31	74	78
Other Hay	TON	----	----	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	77	82
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	428.7	413.7	2,055	2,031	880	840
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	8,556	9,267
Potatoes,Summer	CWT	62.2	65.1	59.1	63.1	304	310	18	20

¹ Acres planted is for all purposes.