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### Growers Forecast Excellent Year for Corn and Soybeans

**Maryland:** Based on a survey conducted the week of August 1 by the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service, yields for this year's corn and soybean crop may prove to be one of the best on record. Based on August 1 crop conditions, **corn** for grain yield is currently forecast at 141 bushels per acre, up 15 percent from 2003 and second only to the 155 bushels per acre average in 2000. With an anticipated harvest of 440,000 acres, total production is forecast at 62 million bushels. The condition of the corn crop is very good. According to the Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending August 1, corn condition was rated 39 percent excellent, 40 percent good, 16 percent fair, and only 5 percent poor or very poor.

Yield for **soybeans** is forecast at 38 bushels per acre, the third highest yield recorded. Growers expect to harvest 490,000 acres of soybeans, for a total production of 18.6 million bushels. This is a 17 percent increase from last year's production of 15.9 million bushels. The condition of the soybean crop is also rated very good. The Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending August 4 reports the soybean condition at 22 percent rated excellent, 58 percent good, and 16 percent fair, and only 4 percent poor.

Small grain harvest is now complete. Although the yields are not record breaking, they are close to average, and a big improvement over last year. **Barley** yields are estimated at 75 bushels per acre, up significantly from the 57 bushels per acre harvested in 2003, and closer to the 5-year average yield of 77 bushels per acre. With 34,000 acres harvested, this results in a total production of 2.55 million bushels. **Wheat** yields are also up significantly from 2003. Average yields for wheat are estimated at 59 bushels per acre, as compared with only 37 bushels per acre last year and a five-year average of 58 bushels per acre. With 145,000 acres harvested, this results in a total production of 8.56 million bushels of wheat.

**Tobacco** production, based on August 1 conditions, is forecast at 1.6 million pounds, equal to last year. Yields are expected to be 1,450 pounds per acre and harvested acreage is unchanged from 2003 at 1,100 acres.

**Apple** production is forecast at 34.0 million pounds, down 9 percent from 37 million pounds in 2003. The decline is attributed to spring weather conditions and damage from insects, diseases, and other pests. According to the Crop Weather report for the week ending August 1, 13 percent of the apple crop has been harvested, 9 percent ahead of schedule.

**United States:** Corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 8 percent from last year and 22 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 148.9 bushels per acre, up 6.7 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are higher in most of the Corn Belt and Great Plains States as weather conditions have been favorable during much of the growing season. Farmers expect to harvest 73.4 million acres of corn for grain, virtually unchanged from June but up 3 percent from 2003.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.88 billion bushels, up 19 percent from 2003 and 4 percent from 2002. If realized, this would be the second largest U.S. soybean production on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.1 bushels per acre, up 5.7 bushels from 2003. Yields are higher than 2003 throughout the Grain Plains and across the Corn Belt, but lower than the record high yields of 2003 in the Southeast. Area for harvest, at 73.7 million acres, is unchanged from June but up 2 percent from 2003 acreage.

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## ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2003 AND 2004

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
<b>Maryland</b>		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	480	510	---	---	---	---	---	---
Corn Grain	BU	---	---	410	440	123	141	50,430	62,040
Corn Silage	TON	---	---	65	---	16	---	1,040	---
Soybeans	BU	435	500	430	490	37	38	15,910	18,620
Sorghum <sup>1</sup>	BU	6	5	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sorghum Grain	BU	---	---	3	3	65	---	195	---
Sorghum Silage	TON	---	---	3	---	10	---	30	---
Winter Wheat	BU	165	160	145	145	37	59	5,365	8,555
Barley	BU	45	37	38	34	57	75	2,166	2,550
All Hay	TON	---	---	195	205	2.8	---	539	---
Alfalfa Hay	TON	---	---	45	35	3.3	---	149	---
Other Hay	TON	---	---	150	170	2.6	---	390	---
Tobacco	LBS	---	---	1.1	1.1	1,450	1,450	1,595	1,595
Apples	LBS	---	---	---	---	---	---	40,000	34,000
Peaches	LBS	---	---	---	---	---	---	8,500	8,800
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	240	260	1,104	1,196
<b>United States</b>								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	78,736	80,968	---	---	---	---	---	---
Corn Grain	BU	---	---	71,139	73,377	142	149	10,114	10,923
Corn Silage	TON	---	---	6,528	---	16	---	106	---
Soybeans	BU	73,404	74,809	72,321	73,655	33.4	39.1	2,418	2,877
Sorghum <sup>1</sup>	BU	9,420	8,099	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sorghum Grain	BU	---	---	7,798	6,916	52.7	67.2	411	465
Sorghum Silage	TON	---	---	343	---	10.4	---	4	---
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,945	43,450	36,541	34,825	47	42	1,707	1,470
Barley	BU	5,299	4,666	4,688	4,152	59	66	276	273
All Hay	TON	---	---	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.63	157	161
Alfalfa Hay	TON	---	---	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	76	77
Other Hay	TON	---	---	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	81	84
Tobacco	LBS	---	---	411.2	414.0	1,952	2,140	803	885
Apples	LBS	---	---	---	---	---	---	8,613	9,366
Peaches	LBS	---	---	---	---	---	---	2,519	2,598
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	63.7	58.8	59.0	57.1	322	327	19	19

<sup>1</sup> Acres planted is for all purpose.