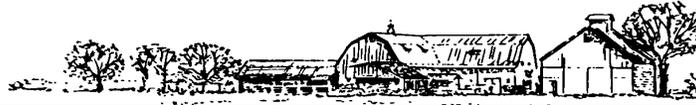




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Tennessee Producers Faced Many Challenges in 2002

Tennessee crop producers faced many challenges during 2002, from flooding along creeks and rivers during the spring in the West to drought conditions during the most of the year in the East. Weather impacted both the amount of acreage planted and harvested, as well as average yields, according to the recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS). Cotton, burley tobacco, and hay acreage were all down from 2001. Average yields for all crops either dropped or remained the same as the year earlier, with corn and soybeans showing the largest percentage declines. TASS State Statistician, Debra Kenerson, noted, "In many ways, this has been a difficult year for a number of our State's farmers. They have endured adverse spring weather resulting in re-planting and lost fields, to drought conditions this summer, and ending with numerous showers this fall contributing to additional flooding and crop losses." Survey results showed cotton production down from 2001, but still the fourth largest crop on record. Corn acreage remained basically the same as 2001, but yield and production fell 19 percent from the year earlier. Although soybean acreage increased from 2001, average yields fell 3 bushels per acre resulting in a 2 percent decline in production. Burley tobacco production continued its downward trend, as did the dark-fired tobaccos. Both alfalfa and other hay production fell from 2001, but all hay production is still the third largest on record.

Cotton Crop Ranks as Fourth Largest

Although growers withstood a difficult season, they still produced 813,000 bales of cotton, up 2 percent from the December 1 forecast, but down 17 percent from the previous year's record crop. This production ranks as the fourth largest on record. Growers planted 570,000 acres during 2002, down 50,000 acres from 2001, and harvested 535,000 acres, 13 percent below a year ago. Yields averaged 729 pounds per acre, up 43 pounds from the December 1 forecast, but down 34 pounds from 2001. This is the second highest yield on record, surpassed only by 2001's average of 763 pounds. During 2002, cotton producers experienced their worst spring planting

conditions since 1991, as cold, wet weather led to planting delays and abandonment of flooded acreage. Growers also struggled in the fall to harvest their cotton crop as persistent rainfall caused numerous delays, but the majority of acreage was combined and ginned by year's end.

Corn Production Down 19 Percent; Sorghum up 15 Percent

Corn for grain production is estimated at 66.3 million bushels, down 19 percent from 2001. The final yield, at 107 bushels per acre, was down 25 bushels from the record high of 132 bushels per acre the previous season. Tennessee corn producers planted 690,000 acres during 2002, up 10,000 from 2001. Harvested area for grain was 620,000 acres and 55,000 acres for silage. Silage yield, at 15.0 tons per acre, was down 4.0 tons from the previous year with production totaling 825,000 tons. Although corn planting was completed on time this past spring, the crop experienced difficulties with insects, freezing temperatures, wet fields, and flooding along the Mississippi River during the 2002 growing season. Grain sorghum production in 2002 is estimated at 2.48 million bushels, up 15 percent from 2001. Area harvested for grain, at 31,000, was up 4,000 from 2001, while average yield per acre was unchanged from a year earlier.

Soybean Acreage Increases but Production Down

The State's soybean production, at 34.7 million bushels, was 2 percent below 2001. The average yield per acre in 2002 is estimated at 31 bushels per acre, one bushel below the November 1 forecast and 3 bushels lower than 2001. Producers planted 1,160,000 acres and harvested 1,120,000 acres in 2002, both up 8 percent from 2001. Soybean planting began around the first of May, but fell behind normal as rain soaked fields delayed planting. During the fall, wet weather caused producers to struggle to get mature beans out of the fields and harvest fell as much as two weeks behind the normal pace. Heavy rains also caused the flooding of thousands of acres during the fall.

Burley Production Lowest Since 1941

Tennessee's final burley production, at 55.5 million pounds, was 13 percent below 2001 and the lowest since 1941. Growers harvested 30,000 acres, 2,000 acres below a year earlier and the smallest acreage in 75 years. Yield per acre averaged 1,850 pounds, down 150 pounds from 2001. The burley tobacco crop was truly a mixed bag. Some areas received rainfall at a good time and the crop developed normally. Unfortunately, rainfall in the major producing areas of Middle and East Tennessee was

infrequent and widely scattered during the growing season. Production of all dark-fire types also showed a decline from 2001. Production of Type 22, at 14.5 million pounds, was down 26 percent, while Type 23, at 1.24 million pounds, was down 25 percent from 2001. Type 35 production was also down 25 percent to 1.30 million pounds. Dark-types final yields per acre are estimated at: Type 22 - 2,900 pounds; Type 23 - 3,100 pounds; Type 35 - 2,600 pounds.

Hay Production Third Largest on Record

All hay production, at 4.51 million tons, was down 5 percent from the 2001 record crop, but still the third largest since records began in 1909. Hay acreage, at 2.03 million, was down 3 percent from 2001. Other hay production, at 4.40 tons per acre, was 5 percent lower than 2001. Other hay producers harvested 2 million acres, 100,000 acres less than a year earlier with a final yield of 2.2 tons per acre, the same as 2001. Total alfalfa production, at 114,000 tons, was down 17 percent from 2001. Alfalfa producers harvested 30,000 acres, 5,000 acres less than 2001 with a yield of 3.8 tons per acre, only 0.1 tons below the year earlier. Hay harvest got underway on schedule in a few areas of the State by the end of April, but quickly fell behind normal due to wet conditions in early May. Hay producers across the state experienced a wide range of difficulties as they struggled with excess rainfall to drought conditions throughout the harvest season. Growers seeded 6,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2002, unchanged from a year earlier.

2003 Winter Wheat Acreage Down 2 Percent

Total wheat acreage for 2003 is forecast at 460,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the 2002 planted area. Winter wheat planting was underway by the first week of October with one-tenth of the acreage seeded. By mid-month, producers struggled to wrap-up fall seedings as wet weather limited the amount of acreage they were able to sow. Development progressed slightly behind the normal pace with a few reports of armyworms in some areas. Only about half of the acreage had been seeded and about a fourth of the crop had emerged by the first of November. By month's end, 85 percent of the crop had been sown with 80 percent of the crop rated in good-to-excellent condition.

Crop Estimates: Tennessee and United States, Final 2002, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,000	8,000
Corn for Grain	bu.	620	620	132	107	81,840	66,340
Corn for Silage	ton	55	55	19	15	1,045	825
Cotton ¹	lb.	615	535	763	729	978	813
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	351.0	309.0
Hay, All	ton	2,135	2,030	2.23	2.22	4,757	4,514
Other	ton	2,100	2,000	2.20	2.20	4,620	4,400
Alfalfa	ton	35	30	3.90	3.80	137	114
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,700	4,000
Sorghum for Grain	bu.	27	31	80.0	80.0	2,160	2,480
Sorghum for Silage	ton	2	2	15.0	14.0	30	28
Soybeans	bu.	1,040	1,120	34.0	31.0	35,360	34,720
Tobacco, All	lb.	39.69	35.90	2,189	2,021	86,893	72,540
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	6.5	5.0	3,000	2,900	19,500	14,500
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.52	.40	3,175	3,100	1,651	1,240
Burley (31)	lb.	32.0	30.0	2,000	1,850	64,000	55,500
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.67	.50	2,600	2,600	1,742	1,300
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	300	54.0	46.0	18,360	13,800
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,629,100	8,910,600
Corn for Grain	bu.	68,808	69,313	138.2	130.0	9,506,840	9,007,659
Corn for Silage	ton	6,148	7,490	16.6	14.0	102,077	104,979
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,827.7	12,413.3	705	663	20,302.8	17,145.0
Cottonseed	ton	---	---	---	---	7,452.2	6,419.3
Hay, All	ton	63,521	64,497	2.47	2.34	156,764	150,692
Other	ton	39,699	41,362	1.93	1.86	76,437	77,138
Alfalfa	ton	23,822	23,135	3.37	3.19	80,327	73,824
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,441,400	2,531,700
Sorghum for Grain	bu.	8,584	7,299	59.9	50.7	514,524	369,758
Sorghum for Silage	ton	336	352	11.1	9.5	3,728	3,360
Soybeans	bu.	72,975	72,160	39.6	37.8	2,890,682	2,729,709
Tobacco, All	lb.	432.34	430.28	2,293	2,068	991,552	889,632
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	9.80	7.50	3,135	2,900	30,720	21,750
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	3.62	2.80	3,419	3,357	12,377	9,400
Burley (31)	lb.	164.30	159.60	2,033	1,904	334,066	303,895
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.42	2.60	2,821	2,600	9,648	6,760
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,295	29,651	43.5	38.5	1,361,479	1,142,802

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima Cotton.

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters)
Prior to January 1, by Crop, State, and United States, Crop Years 2000-2003**

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Cotton				
AL	614,300	520,900	849,700	537,250
AZ	590,100	609,800	585,650	524,550
AR	1,388,700	1,404,950	1,785,900	1,611,800
CA	1,954,700	2,313,900	2,025,000	1,781,400
GA	1,485,050	1,533,900	2,060,000	1,479,450
LA	918,600	923,100	1,044,300	748,550
MS	1,680,150	1,673,600	2,292,650	1,870,300
MO	450,050	502,000	670,000	578,750
NM	58,700	59,700	68,800	52,500
NC	782,550	1,300,400	1,526,550	757,650
OK	131,650	141,950	173,750	175,150
SC	260,800	351,700	401,700	116,200
Tennessee	574,150	691,300	944,050	786,300
TX	4,821,600	3,793,250	3,987,400	4,488,900
VA	133,100	145,350	177,500	84,000
US	15,965,150	16,082,850	18,759,400	15,689,050

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., December 1, 2002 with Comparisons

Crop	Tennessee ¹			United States		
	Dec 1, 2001	Sept 1, 2002	Dec 1, 2002	Dec 1, 2001	Sept 1, 2002	Dec 1, 2002
	1,000 Bushels					
On-Farm Stocks						
Corn				5,275,000	586,800	4,800,000
Wheat				517,890	580,200	384,800
Soybeans				1,240,000	62,700	1,170,000
Grain Sorghum				72,400	7,400	51,600
Oats				58,100	70,500	52,300
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	17,913	1,746	17,746	2,989,715	1,009,626	2,833,427
Wheat	7,531	6,191	4,642	1,105,565	1,170,787	936,199
Soybeans	6,308	128	4,966	1,035,618	145,320	944,482
Grain Sorghum	153		180	241,477	53,573	178,000
Oats	199	70		56,117	41,212	51,294
Total Stocks						
Corn				8,264,715	1,596,426	7,633,427
Wheat				1,623,455	1,750,987	1,320,999
Soybeans				2,275,618	208,020	2,114,482
Grain Sorghum				313,877	60,973	229,600
Oats				114,217	111,712	103,594

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

U.S. Dairy Products: Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 712 million pounds, 3.0 percent above November 2001 but 0.8 percent below October 2002.

American type cheese production totaled 292 million pounds, 2.0 percent above November 2001 but 1.1 percent below October 2002.

Butter production was 103 million pounds in November, 3.1 percent above November 2001 and 1.1 percent above October 2002.

Frozen dessert: (comparisons with November 2001)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) --- 59.2 million gallons, up 0.1 percent

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) --- 22.0 million gallons, down 13.0 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) --- 1.48 million gallons, up 11.0 percent.

Sherbet (hard) --- 3.11 million gallons, up 3.2 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 5.56 million gallons, up 4.3 percent.

Nonfat dry milk for human food: (compared with November 2001) --- 96.2 million pounds, down 10.2 percent.

Dry whey products: (comparisons with November 2001)

Dry whey, human --- 85.2 million pounds, up 9.8 percent.

Dry whey, animal --- 5.60 million pounds, up 18.7 percent.

Dry whey, total --- 90.8 million pounds, up 10.3 percent.

Tennessee Milk Production: October-December quarterly production of milk was 305 million pounds, down 15,000 pounds from the October-December period the year earlier. The average number of milk cows in Tennessee during the October-December quarter was 84,000 head, 5,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

U.S. October-December Milk Production: The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.5 billion pounds, 1.7 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.15 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period in 2001.

Quarterly Milk Production: Tennessee and United States, October-December 2001-2002

Item	Unit	Tennessee		United States	
		2001	2002	2001	2002
Milk cows on farms ¹	1,000 hd.	89	84	9,105	9,148
Milk production ²	mil. lbs.	320	305	40,818	41,511

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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