

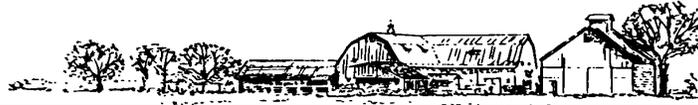


Farm Facts



cooperating with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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In This Issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Annual Crop Production | 1,2 |
| Cotton Ginnings | 3 |
| Grain Stocks | 3 |
| Hay Stocks | 4 |
| Milk Production | 4 |

Tennessee Farmers Set Records in 2003

Tennessee producers “finished-off” an excellent growing season in 2003 with new state record yields for cotton, soybeans, and alfalfa hay, according to a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Most of the State’s row crops benefitted from moderate temperatures and timely showers all year. Corn production was the highest in 83 years, while burley production continued a downward trend and fell to its lowest level in 62 years. State Statistician Debra Kenerson noted that “Although wet weather during the spring hindered planting progress, favorable conditions throughout the summer and fall allowed for excellent crop growth and development.” Survey results showed cotton production up from 2002 and the third largest crop on record. Corn acreage and yield both increased from the year earlier, resulting in the largest crop since 1920. Soybean acreage remained unchanged from 2002, but yield jumped 10 bushels, giving Tennessee its highest production in nearly two decades. Burley tobacco acreage dropped to the lowest level since 1927, while dark-type tobacco acreage rose slightly. Both alfalfa and other hay production increased from 2002, resulting in the third largest hay crop on record.

State Record Cotton Yield

Tennessee’s cotton production is estimated at 875,000 bales, up 7 percent from 2002 and the third largest crop on record. Producers planted 560,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from a year ago, and harvested 530,000 acres, the same as in 2002. The State’s final yield averaged 792 pounds of lint per acre, 51 pounds above 2002 and a new state record. Wet, cool weather during May hindered growers as they planted their 2003 crop. Crop development lagged one to two weeks behind normal throughout much of the year, but near ideal weather during the summer and fall months kept the crop in mostly good condition. Moderate temperatures during October also proved to be beneficial as it helped bolls mature properly and kept defoliation progress in line with normal. Harvest was virtually completed by the third week in November,

slightly behind normal.

Corn Production up 24 Percent; Sorghum up 32 Percent

Corn for grain production is estimated at 82.5 million bushels, up 24 percent from 2002 and the highest since 1920. The final yield, at 131 bushels, is 24 bushels above 2002 and just one bushel below the record setting yield of 132 bushels in 2001. Tennessee corn growers planted 710,000 acres during 2003, up 20,000 from 2002. Harvested area for grain was 630,000 acres, 10,000 acres more than the previous year, with 50,000 acres for silage. Silage yield, at 17.0 tons per acre, was up 2.0 tons from 2002 with production totaling 850,000 tons. Planting of the State’s corn crop started during the first week of April and favorable weather conditions throughout the growing season proved beneficial for crop development. Grain sorghum production in 2002 is estimated at 3.28 million bushels, up 32 percent from 2002 and the highest in 11 years. Area harvested for grain, at 40,000 acres, was up 9,000 acres from a year earlier. Sorghum yield is estimated at 82 bushels per acre, 2 bushels better than 2002 and the highest since 1996.

New Soybean Yield Record

The State’s final soybean yield, at 41 bushels per acre, was 10 bushels above 2002 and a new state record. Soybean production, at 45.9 million bushels, was up 32 percent from 2002 and the highest in 19 years. Producers planted 1,150,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the previous year and harvested 1,120,000 acres, the same as in 2002. Soybean planting began on schedule during the last week of April, but rapidly fell behind normal due to wet conditions. Despite persistent rains throughout much of the spring and early summer, most of the crop was planted by the first week of July. The crop was rated in mostly good condition all season and development progressed at a normal pace. Warm temperatures and mostly dry weather during November allowed the crop ample time to maximize maturity and yields and provided favorable conditions for harvest.

Lowest Burley Production in 62 Years

Tennessee’s burley production, at 54.6 million pounds, was down 4 percent from 2002 and the lowest production since 1941. Yield per acre averaged 1,950 pounds, 50 pounds better than the previous year. Growers harvested 28,000 acres, 7 percent below 2002 and the smallest acreage since 1927. Tobacco transplanting began on schedule in early May, but quickly fell behind due to frequent showers. Despite disease problems and some wind and hail damage, crop development still progressed at a pace ahead of normal. By the first week of November,

growers had stripped over half of the burley crop. Production of Type 22, at 15.6 million pounds, was up 0.1 million pounds from 2002; Type 23, at 1.32 million pounds, was down 5 percent from a year earlier; and Type 35 production was 1.35 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2002. Dark-type final yields per acre are estimated at: Type 22 - 3,000 pounds; Type 23 - 3,300 pounds; and Type 35 - 2,500 pounds.

Third Largest Hay Production on Record

Total hay production, at 4.73 million tons, was up 5 percent from 2002 and the third largest crop since records began in 1909. Hay acreage, at 2.03 million acres, remained the same as the previous year. Hay production, excluding alfalfa, at 4.60 million tons, was up 5 percent from 2002. Hay producers harvested 2.00 million acres with a final yield of 2.3 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from a year ago. This yield tied the state record set in 2000. Total alfalfa production, at 126,000 tons, was up 11 percent from 2002. Alfalfa producers harvested 30,000 acres, unchanged from a year earlier. Yield, at 4.2 tons per acre, was also up 11 percent from 2002 and a new state record. Tennessee's hay harvest was underway in some areas by late April. Wet weather for several weeks during the spring delayed harvest and had producers concerned about the crop becoming too ripe and quality being poor. By early fall though, growers experienced warm weather and timely showers which allowed them to get second and sometimes third cuttings. Growers seeded 4,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2003, down 2,000 acres from 2002.

2004 Winter Wheat Acreage Lowest Since 1985

Total wheat acreage for 2004 is forecast at 400,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from 2003 and the lowest in 19 years. Winter wheat planting was underway by the first week of October with 15 percent of the acreage sown. By mid-month, nearly half the crop was in the ground, with rains providing excellent soil moisture for germination. By mid-November, 91 percent of the crop had been seeded and 70 percent had emerged.

Crop Estimates: Tennessee and United States, Final 2003, with Comparisons

| Crop | Unit | Harvested Acres | | Yield Per Acre | | Production | |
|----------------------|------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------|------------|------------|
| | | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | | Thousands | | Number of Units | | Thousands | |
| Tennessee | | | | | | | |
| Apples | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 6,500 | 9,000 |
| Corn for Grain | bu. | 620 | 630 | 107 | 131 | 66,340 | 82,530 |
| Corn for Silage | ton | 55 | 50 | 15 | 17 | 825 | 850 |
| Cotton ¹ | lb. | 530 | 530 | 741 | 792 | 818 | 875 |
| Cottonseed | ton | — | — | — | — | 291.0 | 327.0 |
| Hay, All | ton | 2,030 | 2,030 | 2.22 | 2.33 | 4,514 | 4,726 |
| Other | ton | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2.20 | 2.30 | 4,400 | 4,600 |
| Alfalfa | ton | 30 | 30 | 3.80 | 4.20 | 114 | 126 |
| Peaches | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 4,000 | 3,500 |
| Sorghum for Grain | bu. | 31 | 40 | 80.0 | 82.0 | 2,480 | 3,280 |
| Sorghum for Silage | ton | 2 | 2 | 14.0 | 18.0 | 28 | 36 |
| Soybeans | bu. | 1,120 | 1,120 | 31.0 | 41.0 | 34,720 | 45,920 |
| Tobacco, All | lb. | 35.90 | 34.14 | 2,096 | 2,134 | 75,261 | 72,870 |
| E. Dark-fired (22) | lb. | 5.0 | 5.2 | 3,110 | 3,000 | 15,550 | 15,600 |
| W. Dark-fired (23) | lb. | .39 | .40 | 3,550 | 3,300 | 1,385 | 1,320 |
| Burley (31) | lb. | 30.0 | 28.0 | 1,900 | 1,950 | 57,000 | 54,600 |
| One-sucker (35) | lb. | .51 | .54 | 2,600 | 2,500 | 1,326 | 1,350 |
| Winter Wheat | bu. | 300 | 270 | 46.0 | 50.0 | 13,800 | 13,500 |
| United States | | | | | | | |
| Apples | lb. | --- | --- | --- | --- | 8,555,600 | 9,351,600 |
| Corn for Grain | bu. | 69,313 | 71,139 | 130.0 | 142.2 | 9,007,659 | 10,113,887 |
| Corn for Silage | ton | 7,490 | 6,528 | 14.0 | 16.2 | 104,979 | 105,864 |
| Cotton ¹ | lb. | 12,426.6 | 12,058.0 | 665 | 725 | 17,208.6 | 18,224.0 |
| Cottonseed | ton | — | — | — | — | 6,183.9 | 6,694.0 |
| Hay, All | ton | 64,497 | 63,342 | 2.34 | 2.48 | 150,962 | 157,123 |
| Other | ton | 41,362 | 39,764 | 1.86 | 2.03 | 77,138 | 80,816 |
| Alfalfa | ton | 23,135 | 23,578 | 3.19 | 3.24 | 73,824 | 76,307 |
| Peaches | lb. | — | --- | --- | --- | 2,575,400 | 2,618,100 |
| Sorghum for Grain | bu. | 7,299 | 7,798 | 50.7 | 52.7 | 369,758 | 411,237 |
| Sorghum for Silage | ton | 352 | 343 | 9.5 | 10.4 | 3,360 | 3,552 |
| Soybeans | bu. | 72,437 | 72,321 | 38.0 | 33.4 | 2,749,340 | 2,417,565 |
| Tobacco, All | lb. | 428.70 | 416.20 | 2,049 | 1,997 | 878,592 | 831,204 |
| E. Dark-fired (22) | lb. | 7.45 | 7.70 | 3,126 | 3,065 | 23,292 | 23,600 |
| W. Dark-fired (23) | lb. | 2.79 | 2.80 | 3,636 | 3,471 | 10,145 | 9,720 |
| Burley (31) | lb. | 158.60 | 156.20 | 1,877 | 1,908 | 297,711 | 298,105 |
| One-sucker (35) | lb. | 2.61 | 2.74 | 2,922 | 2,901 | 7,626 | 7,950 |
| Winter Wheat | bu. | 29,751 | 36,541 | 38.5 | 46.7 | 1,145,602 | 1,707,069 |

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

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters)
Prior to December 15, by Crop, State, and United States, Crop Years 2000-2003

| State | Running Bales Ginned | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| All Cotton | | | | |
| AL | 504,550 | 776,550 | 510,350 | 728,150 |
| AZ | 519,200 | 515,000 | 471,750 | 368,600 |
| AR | 1,398,450 | 1,775,000 | 1,596,450 | 1,720,800 |
| CA | 2,092,950 | 1,836,650 | 1,627,800 | 1,452,300 |
| FL | 90,500 | 131,950 | 60,500 | 113,700 |
| GA | 1,433,950 | 1,865,200 | 1,318,750 | 1,782,400 |
| KS ¹ | | | | 28,300 |
| LA | 923,100 | 1,042,900 | 746,850 | 1,028,300 |
| MS | 1,673,400 | 2,249,650 | 1,840,000 | 2,038,650 |
| MO | 501,650 | 664,750 | 564,950 | 655,800 |
| NM | 57,750 | 61,350 | 46,000 | 48,400 |
| NC | 1,168,250 | 1,355,650 | 711,450 | 931,950 |
| OK | 137,800 | 154,100 | 158,650 | 159,900 |
| SC | 336,400 | 392,150 | 105,300 | 263,750 |
| Tennessee | 691,100 | 936,200 | 776,350 | 821,300 |
| TX | 3,568,250 | 3,682,800 | 3,777,650 | 3,444,500 |
| VA | 135,350 | 166,500 | 79,650 | 99,650 |
| US | 15,232,650 | 17,606,400 | 14,392,450 | 15,686,450 |

¹ December 15 estimates began in 2003. ² Withheld to avoid disclosing individual gins.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., December 1, 2003 with Comparisons

| Crop | Tennessee ¹ | | | United States | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Dec 1, 2002 | Sept 1, 2003 | Dec 1, 2003 | Dec 1, 2002 | Sept 1, 2003 | Dec 1, 2003 |
| | 1,000 Bushels | | | | | |
| On-Farm Stocks | | | | | | |
| Corn | | | | 4,800,000 | 484,900 | 5,286,000 |
| Wheat | | | | 384,800 | 687,320 | 491,925 |
| Soybeans | | | | 1,170,000 | 58,000 | 820,000 |
| Grain Sorghum | | | | 53,600 | 4,500 | 45,200 |
| Oats | | | | 52,500 | 82,100 | 64,300 |
| Off-Farm Stocks ² | | | | | | |
| Corn | 17,746 | 1,455 | 15,449 | 2,837,971 | 601,773 | 2,658,779 |
| Wheat | 4,642 | 9,240 | 7,072 | 935,069 | 1,351,652 | 1,029,159 |
| Soybeans | 4,966 | 221 | 7,386 | 943,373 | 120,329 | 866,381 |
| Grain Sorghum | 180 | -- | 195 | 178,252 | 38,530 | 188,507 |
| Oats | -- | 75 | 150 | 51,284 | 49,637 | 54,918 |
| Total Stocks | | | | | | |
| Corn | | | | 7,637,971 | 1,086,673 | 7,944,779 |
| Wheat | | | | 1,319,869 | 2,038,972 | 1,521,084 |
| Soybeans | | | | 2,113,373 | 178,329 | 1,686,381 |
| Grain Sorghum | | | | 231,852 | 43,030 | 233,707 |
| Oats | | | | 103,784 | 131,737 | 119,218 |

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

Tennessee Hay Stocks Up From 2002

Stocks of all hay stored on Tennessee farms totaled 3.83 million tons on December 1, 2003, up 7 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from May 2003 - December 2003 totaled 1.31 million tons, compared to 1.64 million tons for the same period a year ago. Disappearance is down from last year due to improved pasture conditions, which decreased the need for supplemental hay feeding.

Hay: Stocks on Farms by State and United States, December 1 and May 1, 2001-2003

| State | December 1 | | | May 1 | |
|-------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|
| | 2001 | 2002 ¹ | 2003 | 2001 | 2002 |
| | <i>1,000 Tons</i> | | | <i>1,000 Tons</i> | |
| AL | 2,100 | 1,700 | 1,764 | 650 | 246 |
| AR | 2,280 | 3,000 | 2,700 | 280 | 640 |
| GA | 1,599 | 1,400 | 1,494 | 350 | 230 |
| KY | 4,214 | 4,085 | 5,035 | 943 | 552 |
| MS | 1,833 | 1,631 | 1,125 | 390 | 249 |
| MO | 6,989 | 6,350 | 7,188 | 1,021 | 1,019 |
| NC | 1,215 | 785 | 1,625 | 158 | 50 |
| TN | 4,140 | 3,566 | 3,830 | 809 | 542 |
| US | 110,510 | 103,692 | 110,752 | 22,494 | 22,168 |

¹ Revised

Tennessee Milk Production: October-December quarterly production of milk was 285 million pounds, down 20,000 pounds from the October-December period the year earlier. The average number of milk cows in Tennessee during the October-December quarter was 77,000 head, 7,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

U.S. October-December Milk Production: Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 41.3 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.01 million head, 141,000 head less than the same period last year.

Quarterly Milk Production: Tennessee and United States, October-December 2002-2003

| Item | Unit | Tennessee | | United States | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|---------------|--------|
| | | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Milk cows on farms ¹ | 1,000 hd. | 84 | 77 | 9,148 | 9,007 |
| Milk production ² | mil. lbs. | 305 | 285 | 41,555 | 41,322 |

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

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