



Farm Facts



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Tennessee 2003 Crop Values Up 22 Percent

Production value for Tennessee's 2003 principal field, fruit, and vegetable crops increased 22 percent from 2002 to \$1.37 billion. Production increased for most of Tennessee's crops during 2003, but lower prices kept crop values from being higher. Showing an increase in value over 2002 were apples, corn, cotton, cottonseed, grain sorghum, soybeans, wheat, and fresh market tomatoes and snapbeans. Declining from the previous year were hay, peaches, tobacco, and squash.

Record yields and the highest prices since 1996 pushed **soybeans** to the number one valued crop in the State at \$333 million. Completing the top five were **cotton and cottonseed**, \$292 million; **hay**, \$254 million; **corn**, \$194 million; and **tobacco**, \$151 million. The value of Tennessee's fruit and vegetable crops rose 7 percent to \$63.5 million. Fresh market **tomatoes** were valued at \$45.3 million, followed by fresh market **snapbeans**, \$10.6 million; commercial **apples**, \$2.61 million; commercial **peaches**, \$1.65 million; and **squash**, \$1.39 million.

Tennessee's 2003 soybean crop value was up 68 percent from the previous year's value of \$198 million. The 2003 marketing year average (MYA) price for soybeans jumped \$1.55 per bushel from 2002, while production was 32 percent higher than the year earlier. Cotton and cottonseed combined to show a 42 percent increase in value based on stronger prices and increased production, raising it from third in 2002 to second place. Hay fell as the highest valued crop during 2002 to third highest for 2003 due to a 6 and 2 percent decline in other and alfalfa hay prices, respectively. Corn, up 13 percent, remained in the number four position, as a 24 percent increase in production was only slightly offset by a 9 percent drop in the MYA price. Tobacco saw a slight increase in price, but the continued decline in production resulted in a 2 percent drop in overall value.

Crop Values: Tennessee, 2002-2003

Crop	Unit	Average Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		2002	2003	2002	2003
		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Apples	lb.	0.260	0.249	1,402	2,613
Corn for grain	bu.	2.58	2.35	171,157	193,946
Cotton	lb.	0.453	0.593	177,866	249,060
Cottonseed	ton	95.50	130.00	27,791	42,510
Grain Sorghum	bu.	2.68	2.38	6,638	7,806
Hay, All	ton	56.00	54.00	255,224	253,564
Alfalfa	ton	116.00	114.00	13,224	14,364
All Other	ton	55.00	52.00	242,000	239,200
Peaches	lb.	0.470	0.514	1,739	1,645
Soybeans	bu.	5.70	7.25	197,904	332,920
Tobacco, All	lb.	2.061	2.077	155,117	151,335
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.92	3.10	40,296	41,850
Squash	cwt.	21.80	17.60	2,508	1,392
Tomatoes, Fresh Market	cwt.	33.00	37.00	43,758	45,325
Snapbeans, Fresh Market	cwt.	35.00	29.00	8,260	10,614

Tennessee: Total chicken inventory on December 1, 2003 (excluding commercial broilers) in Tennessee was 2.26 million birds, up 3 percent from 2002's inventory. Total layers on December 1, 2002, at 1.34 million birds, increased 7 percent from 2002's total of 1.26 million birds. The total value of all chickens, on December 1, 2003, rose 3 percent from the year earlier to \$13.8 million. The average value per bird, at \$6.10 per head, was unchanged from 2002.

U.S.: The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2003 (excluding commercial broilers) was 449 million birds, up 1 percent from last year. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2003 was \$1.11 billion, up 5 percent from December 1, 2002. The average value increased from \$2.37 per bird on December 1, 2002, to \$2.47 per bird on December 1, 2003.

Poultry: Inventory and Value, Tennessee and United States, December 1, 2002 and 2003

Species	Tennessee			United States		
	2002	2003	% Prev. Year	2002	2003	% Prev. Year
	1,000			1,000		
Chickens, excluding Broilers	2,200	2,260	103	443,881	448,748	101
Layers 1 year old & older	325	150	46	153,027	169,263	111
Layers 20 weeks old but less than 1 year old	931	1,190	128	186,176	170,726	92
Total Layers	1,256	1,340	107	339,203	339,989	100
Pullets 13 weeks old and older but less than 20 weeks	317	362	114	39,679	42,030	106
Pullets Chicks and Pullets Under 13 weeks of age	453	393	87	56,646	58,291	103
Other Chickens, excluding broilers	174	165	95	8,353	8,438	101
Value per Head ¹	6.10	6.10	100	2.37	2.47	104
Total Value	13,420	13,786	103	1,052,230	1,108,304	105

¹ Dollars.

U.S. Sheep & Goats: All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. **Breeding sheep inventory** declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep. **The 2003 lamb crop** of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002. **Shorn wool production** in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million dollars, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million dollars in 2002.

All goat inventory in Texas on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.2 million head, unchanged from 2003 and 4 percent below two years ago. **Mohair production** in the three major producing states (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas) during 2003 was 1.88 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2002. Goats and kids clipped, at 248,000 head, were down 12 percent from 2002. Average weight per clip was 7.6 pounds compared with 7.7 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair was \$3.1 million dollars, down 9 percent from 2002.

U.S. & Canadian Cattle: All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 109.5 million head on January 1, 2004, down slightly from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 47.9 million head, was up slightly from a year ago. **All cattle and calves in the United States** as of January 1, 2004, totaled 94.9 million head, 1 percent below the 96.1 million on January 1, 2003. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.9 million was down 1 percent from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of January 1, 2004, totaled 14.7 million head, up 9 percent from the 13.5 million on January 1, 2003. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 6.1 million, was up 5 percent from the 5.8 million on January 1, 2003.

Crop Production: Tennessee's Rank Among States, 2003

Crops	Units	Number of States Estimating	Tennessee Rank	Production (000)
All Tobacco	lbs.	16	3	72,870
Tomatoes, Fresh Mkt.	cwt.	17	4	1,225
Snapbeans, Fresh Mkt.	cwt.	11	5	366
Cotton ¹	bales	17	8	875
All Hay	tons	48	12	4,726
Squash, Fresh & Processed	cwt.	12	12	79
Sorghum for Grain	bu.	24	12	3,280
Sorghum for Silage	tons	23	15	36
Soybeans	bu.	31	16	45,920
Corn for Grain	bu.	41	17	82,530
All Wheat	bu.	42	22	13,500
Peaches	lbs.	29	25	3,500
Corn for Silage	tons	48	27	850
Apples	lbs.	35	27	11,000

¹ 480 lbs. Net weight bales.

Livestock Production: Tennessee's Rank Among States, 2003

Livestock ²	Number of States Estimating	Tennessee Rank	Inventory (000 Head)
Beef Cows that have calved	50	9	1,103
All Cattle and Calves	50	14	2,210
All Hogs and Pigs	50	24	215
Milk Cows that have calved	50	28	77
All Chickens, excluding Broilers	42	33	2,260

² Cattle is as of January 1, 2004. Chickens and hogs are as of December 1, 2003.

Livestock Slaughter: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in December 2002. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 4 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was down 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,244 pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 97,500 head, down 1 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was 17 pounds above last year, at 322 pounds. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 4 pounds from December a year ago. January to December 2003 commercial red meat production was 46.5 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

Livestock Slaughter¹: United States, December 2002-2003

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	2,772	2,668	3,506,036	3,320,134	1,265	1,244
Calves	98	98	29,998	31,427	305	322
Hogs	8,657	9,347	2,316,087	2,513,068	268	269
Sheep & lambs	279	262	37,145	35,954	133	137

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

Improve Herd Genetics at 16th Annual Tennessee Beef Agribition

Nashville- The 16th Annual Tennessee Beef Agribition will be held in Murfreesboro, March 12-13, at Middle Tennessee State University's Tennessee Livestock Center. The three-day cattle show and sale event also features one of the largest trade shows in the Southeast, giving participants a look at new products and the direction of the industry. "Agribition is an efficient way to improve your herd genetics," says Margie Baker, livestock specialist with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market Development Division. "Donor embryos can be purchased and implanted, or cows and heifers can be added to the herd at a peak breeding season. The best bulls and purebred breeding stock are all here under one roof, at one time. Additionally, 4-Her's can find the show animals they want and have plenty of time to work with them before fair season starts."

Twelve different chartered breeds will be represented and more than 20,000 people are expected to attend Agribition. The breed shows will begin Friday at 9:00 a.m. with sales for each breed immediately following that breed's show. Saturday shows and sales will begin at 8 a.m. and at about 10:30 a.m., respectively. For the second year, a limited number of cow and calf pairs will be available for sale, says Baker. The pairs will be available for viewing at the center before being sold. The benefit of watching breeds being shown and judged before sale is an opportunity few buyers ever experience, but at Agribition, "You can watch these animals in the ring, then you can hear what breed experts are looking for in the breed and what they think of these particular specimens," says Baker. "Then, you can turn around and go buy exactly what you need because you've just learned exactly what you'll get from what you buy." To learn more about Tennessee Beef Agribition, contact Harold Watson at (731) 424-1645.

West Tennessee Cotton Referendum Set for March 8 - 19

Nashville - State Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens announced on February 19th that a referendum of West Tennessee cotton growers has been set for ten working-days beginning March 8. The referendum will decide the continuation and refinancing of the boll weevil eradication program in West Tennessee. "The boll weevil eradication program has been very successful in helping farmers increase cotton yields and reduce their reliance on cotton pesticides. The referendum will give cotton growers a chance to have their voice heard in the future of the program and to reduce their assessment," said Givens. "This issue is of vital importance to the future of Tennessee's cotton industry, and I urge cotton growers to participate with their vote."

All eligible cotton growers will be mailed an official ballot March 1. Ballots can be mailed or returned in person to local USDA Farm Service Agency offices beginning March 8 through March 19 during normal business hours. Local USDA Farm Service Agency offices can be found in the local phone directory under federal government. A "yes" vote would consolidate all three program regions of West Tennessee under one assessment rate and would refinance program debt over ten years. Under the proposed reauthorization and refinancing plan, growers would pay a single assessment rate of \$12.25 per acre for all of West Tennessee based on a ten-year payback. The proposed assessment rate could be reduced further depending on the availability of state and federal assistance. Farmers are currently assessed \$20 to \$32.25 per acre of cotton grown depending on the program area. If the referendum fails, the currently established assessment rates would remain in effect in each of the three regions in West Tennessee. The referendum requires a two-thirds majority of the growers voting in order to pass. The results of the referendum are expected to be announced March 25. More information and a sample ballot are available by visiting online at www.tennessee.gov/agriculture, then clicking the "Cotton Referendum" link.

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