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Tennessee Farmers Reveal Intentions for 2003

Tennessee farmers revealed their planting intentions for the 2003 crop season during a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. According to survey results, producers intentions as of March 1 are to plant more corn and cotton and less soybeans and burley tobacco. Sorghum acreage is expected to remain steady, while hay acres are projected to decline. Winter wheat acreage seeded last fall to be harvested in 2003 is also expected to be less than a year earlier. State Statistician Debra Kenerson added that, "These results reflect producers intentions as of March 1 and could change, as weather conditions and other factors dictate." Major crop acreages and expected changes from last year are as follows: **Soybeans**, 1.10 million acres, down 5 percent; **Corn**, 740,000 acres, up 7 percent; **Cotton**, 600,000 acres, up 5 percent; **Burley tobacco**, 28,000 acres, down 7 percent; and **Hay**, 1.95 million acres, down 4 percent.

Soybean Acreage to Decline for 2003

Soybean acreage, at 1.10 million, is expected to be down 5 percent from a year ago, but up 3 percent from 2001. This level has been typical in Tennessee the past 10 years as soybean producers have been planting a fairly consistent amount of acreage, increasing only if sharp price changes occur or weather conditions prevent corn or cotton plantings. Producers comments indicate that the decrease for 2003 is due mainly to no apparent price advantage to soybeans over other crops and normal crop rotation.

Largest Corn Acreage in Seven Years; Sorghum Unchanged

Corn acreage is forecast at 740,000, up 7 percent from 2002 and the highest level since 1996. The 50,000 acre increase is due in part to some growers shifting from soybeans to corn, as well as acreage that was intended last year but not planted due to persistent precipitation. The 2003 sorghum forecast is 35,000 acres, unchanged from the previous year. Field preparations are underway and farmers are optimistic about planting their corn and sorghum crops on time. A few acres of corn have already been planted, but most of Tennessee's corn and sorghum acreage is planted during April and May.

Cotton Acreage On The Rise

Cotton planted acreage is forecast at 600,000 acres in 2003, up 30,000 acres from 2002. Tennessee cotton acreage will increase this year due to its favorable demand relative to other crops and many established growers intending to plant more than usual. Field preparations have begun in most areas, although planting does not normally become active until early May.

Lowest Burley Acreage in 76 Years

The State's burley tobacco area for harvest in 2003 is forecast at 28,000 acres, down 7 percent from the previous year and the lowest level since 1927. The decline in acreage is due to the reduction in quota and high lease rates. Escalating labor cost and availability will also likely contribute to the decrease. The other tobacco types grown in Tennessee all showed increases in potential acreage for the 2003 planting season. Type 22 - Eastern Dark-Fired, acreage is forecast at 5,100 acres, up 100 acres from a year ago; Type 23 - Western Dark-Fired, is forecast at 410 acres, up 10 acres from 2002; Type 35 - Dark Air-Cured, is forecasted at 530 acres, up 30 acres from last year.

Wheat Seedings the Lowest Since 1992

Winter wheat seedings for the 2003 season totaled 450,000 acres, 20,000 acres less than last year. This is the lowest recorded acreage in 11 years when 410,000 acres were sown. Planting of the 2003 crop was underway by the first week in October; however, by mid-month producers struggled to wrap up fall seeding as wet weather limited most field activities. Development of the crop has progressed slightly behind the normal pace. Wet weather the end of February and first of March forced growers to await drier conditions to finish applying top-dressing.

Hay Acreage to Decrease from a Year Ago

Tennessee hay producers intend to harvest an estimated 1.95 million acres, down 4 percent from a year ago. Hay supplies were adequate going into the winter months, but adverse weather conditions during January and February has resulted in more hay consumption than normal. Despite short hay stock supplies in some areas last year, Tennessee producers anticipate production from fewer acres this year to adequately feed the State's increasing cattle herd.

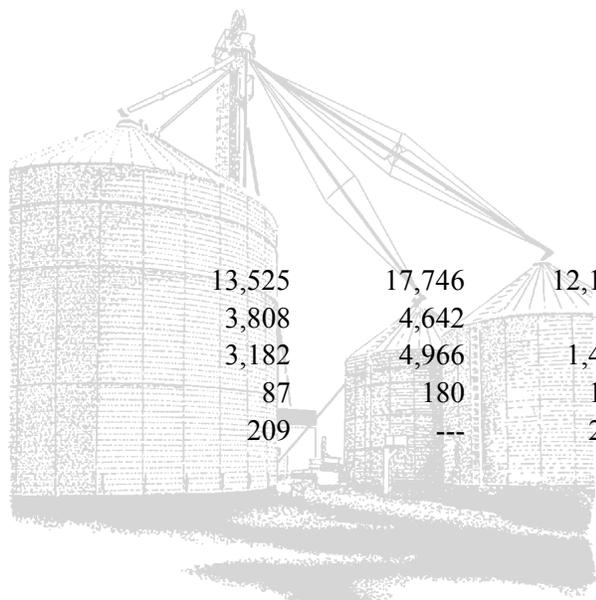
Planting Intentions: Tennessee and United States, March 1, 2003, with Comparisons

Crop	2001	2002	Intended 2003 ¹	2003/2002
Tennessee				
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Corn	680	690	740	107
Sorghum	30	35	35	100
Winter wheat	500	470	450	96
Soybeans	1,070	1,160	1,100	95
Cotton, all	620	570	600	105
Tobacco, all ²	39.69	35.90	34.04	95
E. Dark-fired (22)	6.50	5.00	5.10	102
W. Dark-fired (23)	0.52	0.40	0.41	103
Burley (31)	32.00	30.00	28.00	93
One-sucker (35)	0.67	0.50	0.53	106
Hay ²	2,135	2,030	1,950	96
United States				
Corn	75,752	79,054	79,022	100
Sorghum	10,252	9,580	9,451	99
Winter wheat	41,078	41,735	44,308	106
Soybeans	74,075	73,758	73,182	99
Cotton, all	15,768.5	13,962.6	14,253.0	102
Tobacco, all ²	432.34	430.28	417.51	97
E. Dark-fired (22)	9.80	7.50	7.70	103
W. Dark-fired (23)	3.62	2.80	2.81	100
Burley (31)	164.30	159.60	151.10	95
One-sucker (35)	3.42	2.60	2.73	105
Hay ²	63,521	64,497	63,552	99

¹ Intended planting for 2003. ² Acres harvested.

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

Crop	Tennessee ¹			United States		
	Mar 1, 2002	Dec 1, 2002	Mar 1, 2003	Mar 1, 2002	Dec 1, 2002	Mar 1, 2003
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks						
Corn				3,355,000	4,800,000	2,940,000
Wheat				338,500	384,800	233,200
Soybeans				687,000	1,170,000	635,500
Grain Sorghum				38,100	53,600	27,500
Oats				40,200	52,500	35,000
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	13,525	17,746	12,116	2,440,263	2,837,971	2,192,318
Wheat	3,808	4,642	---	871,268	935,069	671,667
Soybeans	3,182	4,966	1,405	648,987	943,641	566,308
Grain Sorghum	87	180	145	156,007	178,252	135,312
Oats	209	---	248	53,158	51,284	47,438
Total Stocks						
Corn				5,795,263	7,637,971	5,132,318
Wheat				1,209,768	1,319,869	904,867
Soybeans				1,335,987	2,113,641	1,201,808
Grain Sorghum				194,107	231,852	162,812
Oats				93,358	103,784	82,438



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

Tennessee 2002 Trout Sales Up

The total value of fish sales received by trout growers in Tennessee during 2002 was \$297,000, slightly above the previous year but 34 percent below 2000. The number of operations selling trout was 15, down 1 operation from 2001 and 2000. The number of trout 12 inches or longer sold during 2002 increased 32,000 to 130,000 fish, while the average price decreased from \$2.59 to \$2.01 per pound. Based on the dollar value, 79 percent of the trout 12 inches or longer were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments and 18 percent were sold to restaurants and other direct retailers. Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 51,000 fish during 2002 with 27 percent lost to predators.

Trout Sales: Number, Weight, and Value of Sales, 2001-2002

Item	Unit	Tennessee		United States	
		2001	2002	2001	2002
12 inches or longer					
Number of head	Thousands	98	130	54,521	50,231
Pounds sold	Thousands	113	148	56,878	54,451
Average value	Dollars per lb.	2.59	2.01	1.13	1.07
Sales	Thousand dollars	293	297	64,396	58,334
Total Sales ¹	Thousand dollars	362	400	76,241	69,597
Number of Operations ²	Number	16	15	637	606
Selling Trout	Number	9	8	403	378
Distributing Trout	Number	8	8	261	258

¹ Includes sales of fish 6"-12" and fish 1"-6". ² Number of operations January 1, 2002 and 2003.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., March 2003 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		March 2002 ¹	February 2003 ¹	March 2003 ²	March 2002 ¹	February 2003 ¹	March 2003 ²
Dollars Per Unit							
Field Crops							
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.98	3.21	---	2.81	3.52	3.27
Corn	bu.	2.14	2.60	2.55	1.94	2.34	2.30
Cotton Lint ³	lb.	.294	.433	.436	.284	.452	.445
Tobacco	lb.	1.860	1.800	1.260	1.700	1.905	1.590
Soybeans	bu.	4.56	5.76	5.75	4.38	5.55	5.58
Livestock							
All Beef Cattle	cwt.	62.20	57.20	57.80	70.60	74.00	72.20
Steers/Heifers	cwt.	77.00	72.00	73.00	74.10	78.10	76.20
Cows	cwt.	40.00	35.00	35.00	41.50	38.90	39.80
Calves	cwt.	92.00	85.00	85.00	105.00	97.30	96.40

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2003, was 58.1 million head. This was 2 percent below March 1, 2002, and 2 percent below December 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year and 3 percent below last quarter.

The December 2002-February 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 24.4 million head, was 2 percent less than 2002, and 2 percent more than 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.77 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.81 pigs saved per litter for the December 2002-February 2003 period, compared to 8.74 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.