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Tennessee's Wheat Yields Down

Tennessee's wheat production totaled 13.7 million bushels in 2004, 2 percent above 2003 but 3 percent below 2002. The state's wheat yield was 49 bushels per acre during 2004, one bushels less than the 2003 crop and three bushels less than the five-year average. Growers sowed 400,000 acres in the fall of 2003, down 30,000 acres from the year earlier and the lowest total since 1985. There were 280,000 acres harvested for grain, up slightly from last year. Wheat used for other purposes, such as silage, hay, or cover crop, totaled 120,000 acres.

Winter wheat seeding began the first week of October 2003, and by months end three-fourths of the crop had been seeded, with almost half emerged.

By April, the wheat crop was rated in mostly good condition with over half of the crop jointing. Top dressing was also virtually complete by this time. During April, the effects of a relatively mild winter became more noticeable, as aphid populations had spread barley yellow dwarf virus. By the middle of June, as the crop ripened, producers began to see the effects of a wet, late spring and, as harvest began, many saw lower test weights and yields.

U.S. Wheat: All wheat production totaled 2.16 billion bushels in 2004, up 2 percent from the last forecast but 8 percent below 2003. Grain area is 50.2 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 43.1 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from a year ago. Levels of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.50 billion bushels, down 13 percent; other spring wheat, 574 million bushels, up 8 percent; and Durum wheat, 90.5 million bushels, down 6 percent.

The 2004 winter wheat production is estimated at 1.50 billion bushels. This is up nearly 1 percent from the August forecast but 13 percent below last year's crop. The U.S. yield is 43.5 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushel from August but 3.2 bushels below last year's final yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 34.5 million acres, 6 percent below 2003. Planted area is 43.4 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous year.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., Final 2004 with Comparisons

State	Acreage Harvested			Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres			Bushels			1,000 Bushels		
Tennessee	300	270	280	47.0	50.0	49.0	14,100	13,500	13,720
Alabama	60	75	60	40.0	42.0	48.0	2,400	3,150	2,880
Arkansas	830	570	620	46.0	50.0	53.0	38,180	28,500	32,860
Georgia	190	230	190	42.0	46.0	45.0	7,980	10,580	8,550
Kentucky	330	350	380	52.0	62.0	54.0	17,160	21,700	20,520
Mississippi	180	125	135	40.0	49.0	53.0	7,200	6,125	7,155
Missouri	760	870	930	44.0	61.0	52.0	33,440	53,070	48,360
North Carolina	430	410	460	42.0	36.0	50.0	18,060	14,760	23,000
Virginia	170	160	180	61.0	46.0	55.0	10,370	7,360	9,900
United States	29,742	36,753	34,462	38.2	46.7	43.5	1,137,001	1,716,721	1,499,434

U.S. Hog Inventory: U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2004, was 61.4 million head. This was 1 percent above both September 1, 2003, and June 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.98 million head, was up 1 percent from September 1, 2003, and also up 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.4 million head, was 1 percent above last year and 2 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 26.0 million head, was up 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, 1 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.00 for the June-August 2004 period, compared to 8.90 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the September-November 2004 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in both 2003 and 2002. Intended farrowings for December 2004-February 2005, at 2.85 million sows, are up 1 percent from the same period in 2004, and up 3 percent from the same period in 2003. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., September 1, 2004 with Comparisons

Crop	Tennessee			United States		
	Sept 1, 2003	Jun 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2003	Jun 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2004
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks ¹						
Corn				484,900	1,540,000	438,000
Wheat				687,320	131,880	795,600
Soybeans				58,000	110,000	29,400
Grain Sorghum				4,500	7,650	3,700
Oats				82,100	27,500	74,800
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	1,455	4,208	1,324	601,773	1,430,140	519,672
Wheat	9,240	2,105	10,484	1,351,652	414,939	1,146,115
Soybeans	221	709	53	120,329	300,604	83,089
Grain Sorghum	³	³	³	38,530	72,944	29,855
Oats	75	190	65	49,637	37,348	41,454
Total Stocks						
Corn				1,086,673	2,970,140	957,672
Wheat				2,038,972	546,819	1,941,715
Soybeans				178,329	410,604	112,489
Grain Sorghum				43,030	80,594	33,555
Oats				131,737	64,848	116,254

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. ³ Not published to avoid disclosures of individual operations.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., September 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		September 2003	August ¹ 2004	September ² 2004	September 2003	August ¹ 2004	September ² 2004
Dollars Per Unit							
Field Crops							
Winter Wheat	bu.	3.55	3.16	----	3.32	3.19	3.31
Corn	bu.	2.27	2.28	2.13	2.20	2.34	2.13
Cotton Lint	lb.	³	0.545	³	0.557	0.537	0.472
Soybeans	bu.	5.97	6.06	5.80	6.06	6.83	5.77
Livestock							
All beef cattle	cwt.	68.40	85.20	82.40	84.90	88.90	86.30
Steers/heifers	cwt.	88.00	108.00	104.00	89.30	92.50	89.80
Cows	cwt.	39.00	51.00	50.00	44.80	54.70	52.80
Calves	cwt.	93.00	121.00	119.00	109.00	131.00	129.00

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Tennessee: The average price received for the 2003 soybean crop was \$7.05 per bushel, 24 percent above 2002 and the highest average since 1997. The crop marketing season for the 2003 crop is September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004.

Prices Received: Soybeans, by Month, Selected States, and U.S., for Marketing Year, 2003-2004

State	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan ¹	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Dollars Per Bushel													
AR	5.78	6.06	6.72	7.16	7.22	7.39	8.53	9.48	9.07	9.91	8.54	8.25	7.25
KY	5.79	6.05	6.80	7.24	7.29	7.25	8.11	9.04	9.82	8.94	9.12	8.71	6.59
MS	5.73	6.19	6.74	6.64	6.28	6.88	8.57	9.49	9.74	9.14	²	8.25	6.99
MO	5.75	6.26	6.93	7.12	7.43	7.48	8.27	9.13	9.56	9.68	9.37	8.37	6.64
NC	5.53	6.58	7.00	7.03	7.07	7.38	8.08	8.97	8.93	8.59	8.80	7.56	6.31
TN	5.75	5.97	7.04	6.91	7.15	7.30	7.99	9.18	9.79	9.06	8.98	7.62	6.06
US	5.68	6.06	6.60	7.05	7.17	7.35	8.28	9.28	9.62	9.56	9.08	8.46	6.83

¹ Second year. ² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

Soybeans: Farm Marketings, Percent of Sales, by Month and Selected States, 2003-2004 ¹

State	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Percent													
AR	8	23	18	16	24	2	1					1	7
KY		1	16	16	8	40	8	5	2	1	1	1	1
MS	10	25	23	9	4	20	2	1			6		
MO		2	25	18	8	24	7	6	2	2	2	2	2
NC		3	8	38	22	11	6	5	2	2	1	1	1
TN		5	30	32	6	13	3	3	1	1		1	5
US		8.8	29.5	9.4	7.9	16.9	6.6	6.1	3.5	2.4	2.2	3.4	3.2

¹ Monthly farm marketings, based on a sample survey, as a percent of total used for calculating marketing year average prices.

Studies Measure Agricultural Chemical Use and Conservation Issues

To gather reliable, objective information about pesticide usage on vegetable crops and conservation practices, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be conducting the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (VCUS) and the National Resource Inventory - Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) during the fall of 2004. The Vegetable Chemical Use Survey will provide information used to set state and national estimates of producers' use of pesticides on snap beans and tomatoes. Information gathered from the Conservation Effects Assessment Project will be used to provide an accounting of the benefits achieved through conservation programs.

"USDA has an obligation to provide reliable data on pesticide use and conservation practices and these surveys give us the information necessary to do that," said Debra Kenerson, Director of the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. "Accurate and complete responses from producers are essential to the success of the surveys."

The information resulting from CEAP will be added to other sources to create a complete picture of environmental and conservation management conditions. Answers from this survey will be used to estimate the potential benefits that have been achieved by farm conservation programs. VCUS data contributes to an overall understanding by policymakers, the Extension Service, grower associations, and consumers of how production practices have evolved to efficiently produce a plentiful food supply. Research of the data will lead to development of more recommendations which will improve agricultural production, while ensuring a safe environment for producers and consumers. Participants in both surveys have an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Debra Kenerson said. "Data from individual operations are combined with other responses to provide the needed data. We will not disclose any information about an individual operation."

The results of the VCUS will be published in July 2005. Annual progress reports using information provided by the CEAP study will be published by the National Resource Conservation Service beginning in 2005. All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information, please call 1-800-626-0987.

FARM FACTS (USPS 368-470) is published semimonthly for \$12 per year by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics, Ellington Agricultural Center, 440 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220-1626.
