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Record Yields Expected Despite Contrasting Conditions

September weather presented contrasting conditions for Tennessee farmers. Producers in West Tennessee enjoyed near ideal conditions for crop development and harvest, while those in lower middle and eastern parts of the state experienced mild to severe crop damage from several storms during the month. Overall though, yield prospects for the state's major crops remained extremely favorable and basically unchanged from the September forecast. The October 1 Yield Survey conducted by Tennessee Agricultural Statistics showed that record yields continue to be expected for this year's corn, cotton, and hay crops. The October forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 140 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from a year earlier and a new state record; **Cotton**, a record 827 pounds per acre and 21 pounds above 2003; **Soybeans**, 40 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from a year ago; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, unchanged from last year; and **Hay**, excluding alfalfa, 2.5 tons per acre, up 0.2 tons from 2003 and a new state record.

Record Corn Yields Expected

Corn production is forecast at 85.4 million bushels, up 3 percent from 2003 and the largest production since 1920. The State's corn yields are expected to average 140 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from a year ago and a new state record. Tennessee's planted area for 2004 is now estimated at 680,000 acres, while acreage for grain harvest

is estimated at 610,000 acres, 20,000 acres less than 2003. Favorable weather conditions allowed producers to harvest over 90 percent of the grain acreage by the first week of October, while virtually all of the silage had been harvested by the end of September. Remnants of Hurricane Ivan missed the West Tennessee corn crop, but many fields in the east and lower middle areas of the state suffered damage from heavy rains and high winds.

Second Highest Soybean Yield

The State's soybean production is forecast at 47.2 million bushels, virtually unchanged from last year, but 6 percent above last month's forecast. If realized, this would be the highest production in 20 years. Soybean yields are expected to average 40 bushels per acre, up a bushel from last month and the second highest on record. The 2004 soybean planted area is now estimated at 1.21 million acres, while acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.18 million acres, up 5 percent from 2003 and the highest in 5 years. Timely rains during the first week of September along with moderate temperatures provided much needed moisture for late planted beans. Soybean development progressed ahead of last year and the 5-year average throughout much of September. By month's end, 68 percent of the acreage was dropping leaves with over a quarter of acreage harvested. As of October 1, 79 percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

Cotton Yield Sets a New State Record

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 930,000 bales, up 40,000 from 2003 and the second highest production on record. Based on condition as of October 1, cotton yields are forecast at 827 pounds of lint per acre, up 21 pounds from a year ago and a new State record. Growers expect to harvest 540,000 acres, 10,000 more than 2003. As of October 3, 87 percent of the acreage had open bolls with two-thirds of the State's acreage defoliated. Almost one-fifth of the cotton acreage had been harvested, slightly ahead of last year but more than a week behind the 5-year average.

Burley Yield and Production Remain Steady

Burley tobacco growers expect to produce 47.5 million pounds, unchanged from last month's forecast and the previous year. Tennessee's burley yields are forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, also the same as last month. Farmers plan to harvest 25,000 acres for 2004, the same as a year ago. As of October 3, 91 percent of the burley acreage had been harvested, in line with normal. Hurricane Ivan damaged some acreage and caused flooding, but the full extent of loss remains unknown at this time. Yields per acre are forecast at 3,000 pounds for Type 22, up 20 pounds from a year earlier; 3,400 pounds for Type 23, 50 pounds above the previous year; and 2,400 pounds for Type 35, unchanged from last year.

State Record Hay Yield

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.88 million tons, 6 percent above 2003 and a new state record. Yields are expected to average 2.5 tons per acre, up 0.2 tons from last year and also a new record. Harvested area is estimated at 1.95 million acres, 50,000 acres less than a year ago. The State's hay fields and pastures have benefitted greatly from timely rains this year as second and third cuttings continue into October. Pastures have remained in mostly good condition throughout the growing season.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 11.6 billion bushels, up 6 percent from last month and 15 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of October 1, the yield is expected to average 158.4 bushels per acre, up 9.0 bushels from September and 16.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Soybean production is forecast at 3.11 billion bushels, up 10 percent from the September forecast and 27 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average a record high 42.0 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from September.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, October 1, 2004, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	12,000	10,000
Corn for grain	bu.	630	610	131	140	82,530	85,400
Cotton ¹	lb.	530	540	806	827	890	930
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	1,950	2.30	2.50	4,600	4,875
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,500	3,500
Soybeans	bu.	1,120	1,180	42.0	40.0	47,040	47,200
Tobacco, All	lb.	31.14	31.38	2,108	2,118	65,632	66,472
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	5.2	5.4	2,980	3,000	15,496	16,200
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.4	.42	3,350	3,400	1,340	1,428
Burley (31)	lb.	25.0	25.0	1,900	1,900	47,500	47,500
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.54	.56	2,400	2,400	1,296	1,344
Winter Wheat	bu.	270	280	50.0	49.0	13,500	13,720
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,613,300	9,458,900
Corn for grain	bu.	71,139	73,311	142.2	158.4	10,113,887	11,613,226
Cotton ¹	lb.	12,003	13,223	730	782	18,255	21,545
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.25	80,816	88,549
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,519,000	2,598,400
Soybeans	bu.	72,476	73,990	33.9	42.0	2,453,665	3,106,861
Tobacco, All	lb.	411,150	409,610	1,952	2,156	802,654	883,168
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.80	8.10	3,013	3,067	23,504	24,840
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	2.90	2.92	3,505	3,571	10,165	10,428
Burley (31)	lb.	152.30	154.10	1,850	1,958	281,698	301,710
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.84	2.86	2,748	2,883	7,805	8,244
Winter Wheat	bu.	36,541	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434

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

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to October 1, Crop Years 2001-2004

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
All Cotton				
AL	19,250	32,750	21,550	38,300
AZ	46,850	43,400	36,200	51,600
AR	250,900	76,700	91,650	113,500
CA	16,250	4,100	0	19,450
FL ¹	---	---	3,700	---
GA ¹	44,300	89,600	62,800	82,500
LA	150,800	122,650	257,000	131,200
MS	306,600	275,700	405,300	363,550
MO	93,400	16,400	3,700	28,250
NM ¹	1,100	---	0	---
NC	3,350	11,850	950	46,700
OK	---	6,100	2,100	1,950
SC	7,800	4,350	2,050	16,350
Tennessee	135,050	39,400	22,300	61,450
TX	993,700	929,550	1,091,850	1,264,400
US	2,071,700	1,656,350	2,001,150	2,221,600

¹ Withheld to avoid disclosing individual gins.

Dairy Products Prices Highlights: **Cheddar Cheese** prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.56 per pound for the week ending October 9. The price per pound increased 0.3 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.52 per pound, down 1.5 cents from the previous week. **Butter** prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.75 per pound for the week ending October 9. The U.S. price per pound decreased 4.0 cents from the previous week. **Nonfat Dry Milk** prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged 86.1 cents per pound for the week ending October 9. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.1 cent from the previous week. **Dry Whey** prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 22.0 cents per pound for the week ending October 9. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.1 cent from the previous week.

September Milk Production: Milk production in the 20 major States during September totaled 11.9 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from September 2003. August revised production, at 12.4 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from August 2003. The August revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,529 pounds for September, 18 pounds above September 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 6,000 head less than September 2003, but 4,000 head more than August 2004.

July-September Milk Production: Milk production in the U.S. during the July-September quarter totaled 42.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the July-September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.03 million head, 40,000 head less than the same period last year.

Agricultural Chemical Usage, 2003 Restricted Use Summary

Corn: Atrazine was again the most widely used restricted use herbicide applied to corn, with 68 percent of the corn acres treated. Acetochlor was used on 26 percent of the corn acres. Restricted use insecticides were applied to a range of less than 1 percent to 7 percent of the corn planted acres. Cyfluthrin and tebuprimiphos were both applied to 7 percent of the acres planted to corn. Though one of the smaller percentages of area applied, terbufos had the largest total pounds applied, at 1,660,000.

Cotton, Upland: A wide range of restricted use pesticides was reported on upland cotton, which had 21 different active ingredients applied. Aldicarb, at 25 percent of the acres treated, was the most commonly used restricted use insecticide used on upland cotton acres, followed by dicotophos, at 15 percent. Paraquat, used as a defoliant, and hence classified under the "Other Chemicals" heading for upland cotton, was used on 15 percent of the upland cotton acreage.

Sorghum: At 70 percent of the acres treated, atrazine was not only the highest herbicide restricted use active ingredient, but it was also applied on the highest percentage of acres as compared to all the restricted use pesticides on the five field commodities in this publication. Alachlor was the next most widely used restricted use herbicide, applied to 11 percent of the sorghum planted acres.

Nursery & Floriculture: A wide variety of restricted use active ingredients were reported for all nursery and floriculture. The most common restricted use herbicide applied by producers in the 6 Program States to nursery and floriculture products was atrazine, at 40,100 total pounds. Numerous restricted use insecticide active ingredients were reported on nursery and floriculture products. When comparing total pounds applied, permethrin and diflubenzuron were the two most heavily applied restricted use insecticides. Methyl bromide and chloropicrin were overall the most widely used restricted use active ingredients, with total pounds applied at 449,600 pounds and 255,000 pounds, respectively, reported in the Program States.

Fruit Crops: Growers in 12 Program States were surveyed to obtain chemical use data on 24 selected fruit crops in 2003. The data on restricted use applications cover the period immediately following harvest of the 2002 crop through harvest of the 2003 crop. A limited number of restricted use herbicides were applied to fruit crops in 2003. Paraquat was applied to many of the targeted crops, at application percentages ranging up to 74 percent of the raspberries acreage. Several restricted use insecticides were used extensively on fruit crops in the Program States. Esfenvalerate was applied to 67 percent of the apricot acreage, and diazinon was applied to 52 percent of the raspberry acreage. Other restricted use insecticides applied to more than 30 percent of planted acres were: abamectin on grapefruit, tangelos, and tangerines; and esfenvalerate on nectarines and peaches.