



Farm Facts



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Tennessee Cotton Production Up 5 Percent

Tennessee: Cotton production is forecast at 860,000 bales, unchanged from November but 5 percent above last year's production. Yield is expected to average a record high 772 pounds per acre, up 31 pounds from 2002. Mostly dry, mild conditions during the first half of November allowed producers to make good progress harvesting their crop. Harvest, however, slowed toward the end of the month, as several cold fronts moved through the state bringing rain. As of the week ending November 23, only 8 percent of the state's acreage was left to be harvested, ahead of last year but slightly behind the 5-year average.

U.S. Cotton: Upland cotton harvested area, at 11.9 million acres, is unchanged from the November estimate but 2 percent less than last year. American-Pima harvested area, at 168,400 acres, is also unchanged from November but down 31 percent from the 2002 harvested acres.

In the Southeastern States, growers were able to make significant harvest progress despite frequent showers. The Delta Region cotton harvest continued under optimal conditions. Lower Delta growers were virtually done with harvest by the middle of the month and north Delta producers made significant progress. A series of cold fronts passed through Texas and Oklahoma during the first half of November, interrupting the cotton harvest. Clear weather returned and the harvest resumed. However, regrowth on some acreage forced some producers to re-apply defoliants rather than wait for the killing freeze. The Arizona harvest was delayed due to frequent scattered showers. Arizona producers are as much as two weeks behind in the cotton harvest. Data from objective yield measurements show California boll counts are the third highest in the 15-year data series, surpassed only by the previous two years.

Cotton Summary: Tennessee & U.S. Yield and Production, 2002 and Forecasted December 1, 2003

Crop	Yield Per Acre			Production ¹	
	2002	2003		2002	2003
		November 1	December 1		
Pounds			1,000 Bales ²		
Tennessee					
Upland Cotton	741	772	772	818	860
United States					
All Cotton	665	722	722	17,209	18,215
Upland	651	715	715	16,530	17,783
American-Pima	1,342	1,260	1,231	678	432
Cottonseed ³				6,184	6,689

¹ Production ginned and to be ginned. ² 480-Lb. net weight bales. ³ Production in 1,000 tons; 2003 production based on a 3-year average lint-seed ratio.

Tennessee Agricultural Exports Increase 9 Percent

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) publishes estimates of U.S. agricultural export contributions by states on a fiscal year basis (October-September). See table below. These estimates are prepared by major commodity groups and usually are based on the assumption that, for each commodity, a state contributes the same export share as its share of production. However, where obvious distortions exist, this procedure is amended. To keep data manageable, ERS limits exports only to states that collectively account for 90 percent of a given commodity's output. They also assume that a state would export only if it had an apparent surplus. They further assume that, although this method could eliminate some exporting states, it is more likely that large exporters would be sufficiently credited. Thus, for Tennessee, ERS no longer publishes estimates for feed grains, fruits, nuts, rice, peanuts, or sunflowers, and no allowance is made for them in the "other" category.

Agricultural Exports: Tennessee and United States, Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2000-2002

Commodity	Tennessee			United States		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
Million Dollars						
Soybeans & Products	57.1	71.0	89.6	6,648.0	6,809.9	7,325.7
Tobacco, Unmanufactured	87.7	99.5	82.2	1,226.8	1,181.3	1,147.4
Cotton & Linters	60.0	81.2	96.3	1,829.2	2,092.5	2,052.1
Cottonseed & Products	3.2	3.9	4.6	90.8	86.9	97.6
Wheat & Products	67.2	71.5	81.7	4,586.0	4,508.8	4,787.1
Feed Grains & Products	37.0	39.9	54.0	6,605.7	6,533.7	6,779.2
Live Animals & Meat(Excluding Poultry)	25.7	27.6	27.0	6,406.6	6,293.5	6,097.4
Fats, Oils, & Greases	0.9	0.6	0.6	421.5	320.0	454.4
Poultry & Products	30.0	31.5	37.6	2,235.4	2,518.6	2,279.3
Hides & Skins	1.0	1.2	0.6	1,428.4	1,932.9	1,776.0
Vegetables & Preparations	5.0	6.7	4.1	4,440.4	4,511.2	4,551.0
Dairy Products	8.6	10.2	10.2	998.5	1,120.9	1,030.7
Fruits & Preparations ¹	0.2	1.4	2.1	3,380.2	3,501.7	3,433.5
Feeds & Fodders	21.8	27.6	29.3	1,859.8	2,143.7	1,951.2
Seeds	2.9	3.6	3.9	771.8	727.1	839.2
Other ²	79.8	84.7	86.3	7,814.7	8,415.8	8,691.8
All Commodities ³	488.1	562.1	610.0	50,743.8	52,698.5	53,293.6

¹Apples, apple juice, and apple products, as well as other miscellaneous fruits assumed to equal the previous year; current year production data has not yet been released. ²Includes minor oilseeds, sugar, confectionery, and tropical products, nursery & greenhouse, essential oils, beverages, excluding juice, and other miscellaneous vegetable products. ³Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: *Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States*, Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, July 2003

Value of United States Foreign Trade and Trade Balance, Calendar Years, 1991-2002

Year	U.S. Exports ¹				U.S. Imports ²				Trade Balance		
	Agri-cultural	Non Agri-cultural	Total ³	Percent Agri-cultural	Agri-cultural	Non Agri-cultural	Total ³	Percent Agri-cultural	Agri-cultural	Non Agri-cultural	Total ³
	Million Dollars			Percent	Million Dollars			Percent	Million Dollars		
1991	39,349	361,437	400,786	10	22,875	460,153	483,028	5	16,474	-98,716	-82,242
1992	43,101	389,168	432,269	10	24,793	500,467	525,260	5	18,308	-111,299	-92,991
1993	42,863	396,377	439,240	10	25,131	549,732	574,863	4	17,732	-153,355	-135,623
1994	46,193	436,453	482,646	10	27,024	630,262	657,286	4	19,169	-193,809	-174,640
1995	56,251	491,910	548,161	10	30,255	709,337	739,592	4	25,996	-217,427	-191,431
1996	60,309	524,343	584,652	10	33,512	761,777	795,289	4	26,797	-237,434	-210,637
1997	57,151	587,878	645,029	9	36,149	826,277	862,426	4	21,002	-238,399	-217,397
1998	51,754	584,701	636,455	8	36,896	868,814	905,710	4	14,858	-284,113	-269,255
1999	48,378	593,811	642,189	8	37,673	979,763	1,017,436	4	10,705	-385,952	-375,247
2000	51,246	662,469	713,715	7	38,974	1,167,681	1,206,655	3	12,272	-505,212	-492,940
2001	53,659	610,661	664,320	8	39,366	1,092,675	1,132,041.3	3	14,293	-482,014	-467,721
2002	53,005	576,594	629,599	8	41,935	1,112,876	1,154,811	4	11,070	-536,282	-525,212

¹Agricultural products exclude re-exports. Nonagricultural and totals include re-exports and undocumented exports to Canada. ²Imports for consumption (customs value).

³Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: *Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States*, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 2003

Commercial Floriculture, Nursery, and Christmas Trees, ``Industries that Continue to Grow and Thrive``

The Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS) will conduct the Commercial Floriculture and the Nursery and Christmas Tree Production surveys at the beginning of 2004. Data collected for Tennessee will be combined with other States to help determine the status of these dynamic industries. Debra K. Kenerson, State Statistician, commented, "The nursery and floriculture industry has more than doubled nationally from 1988 to 1998, with sales totaling \$10.9 billion in 2000. It is vital to record this growth so supporting industries and policy makers can provide necessary resources."

These surveys will be used to produce reliable, accurate data on key items such as area of production, product sold, and value of sales. Leaders from the Society of American Florists and the nursery industry encourage grower participation in these surveys, knowing it is crucial to have accurate data on the floriculture, nursery, and Christmas tree industries. Results from the Commercial Floriculture Production Survey are scheduled for release on April 27, 2004. Results from the Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey are scheduled for release on July 26, 2004.

TASS works with growers and producers to provide meaningful, accurate, reliable, and objective statistics that help keep Tennessee agricultural industries informed. Growers gain important benefits from providing their responses to these surveys. The results are official estimates and will help ensure information is available to the public and the industry on floriculture, nursery, and Christmas tree production. Accurate industry statistics are crucial to obtaining research funding and government support on various issues.

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

Commercial Floriculture and Nursery and Christmas Tree Production statistics, hundreds of other commodity reports, and a full catalog of NASS products and services, are available on the NASS Homepage at www.usda.gov/nass/. For other information, e-mail NASS@nass.usda.gov or call 1-800-727-9540. To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at 1-800-999-6779.

Survey of Tennessee Equine to Begin Soon

Equine enthusiasts all across the state will soon be given the opportunity to let everyone know how important this diverse, complex industry is to Tennessee's agriculture. Mailing out toward the end of December will be a comprehensive questionnaire asking Tennessee's equine industry to take part in a survey of the State's horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, and burros. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) has commissioned the survey with the Tennessee Agricultural Statistical Service (TASS) in Nashville, which is handling the data collection and survey details.

This survey is particularly vital. The 1999 Equine Survey showed Tennessee ranked third in the nation with 190,000 head of equine valued at \$515 million. Questions will relate to inventory, breed, value, usage, expenditures, assets, and income. Decision and policy makers at all levels of government, industry analysts, extension agents, and farm organizations can use the updated information to better serve this dynamic industry. It is therefore important for all equine enthusiasts to participate in this survey to ensure that local agriculture is accurately portrayed.

Joe Gaines, Assistant Commissioner, of TDA's Market Development Division, stated, "The equine industry is an important part of Tennessee's agricultural industry, and we hope these survey results strongly demonstrate that." Mr. Gaines went on to say, "the Market Development Division helps to support this growing industry through promotions of Tennessee trails, forage sources, various breeds of equine, as well as future shows and events." The department also works closely with the Tennessee Horse Council, a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to unite the industry and to serve as the voice and a communication link with all aspects of the industry.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Debra Kenerson, State Statistician with TASS added. "Data about individual operations are used only in conjunction with information from other producers. We will not disclose any data about an individual operation." Results from the 2004 Tennessee Equine Survey are preliminarily slated to be released in March. For more information, call TASS at 1-800-626-0987, or Margie Baker, Livestock Marketing Specialist with TDA, at 615-837-5323.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters) Prior to December 1, Crop Years 2000-2003

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Cotton				
AL	467,850	641,950	427,000	627,850
AZ	414,500	431,250	397,300	290,450
AR	1,384,950	1,715,000	1,501,150	1,609,150
CA	1,744,800	1,521,450	1,326,750	1,118,150
FL	76,550	105,600	44,900	96,800
GA	1,193,700	1,518,150	1,029,400	1,427,900
LA	914,350	1,019,550	716,800	1,023,500
MS	1,667,100	2,127,550	1,691,850	1,983,700
MO	499,100	635,050	534,750	580,950
NM	49,750	53,500	34,850	36,000
NC	969,950	1,080,250	578,150	729,500
OK	121,900	130,100	132,650	117,450
SC	296,150	344,950	82,300	209,600
Tennessee	685,450	903,400	723,250	739,350
TX	3,023,450	3,207,900	3,084,200	2,790,750
VA	109,550	128,500	62,350	79,600
US	13,619,100	15,564,150	12,367,650	13,477,200

"Marketplace for Ideas" Conference and Trade Show Slated for Jan. 15-16

The third annual "Marketplace for Ideas in Agriculture and Rural Communities" conference and trade show will be held at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Jan. 15-16, 2004 in the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion. The "Marketplace for Ideas" concept was developed to help farmers and other agribusiness people from Tennessee and surrounding states learn to add value to the products they produce, to diversify their operations or to use their farmlands for new ventures.

For more information on the conference and trade show, visit www.ideasinagriculture.com, or contact conference coordinator and U.T. Agricultural Extension specialist Dr. Peggy Hamlett at (731) 425-4711, or contact Dr. Jim Byford, Dean, U.T. Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at (731) 587-7250. For information on exhibiting at the trade show, an exhibitor registration form can be downloaded at www.ideasinagriculture.com or call (731) 425-4717.

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