



TENNESSEE  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

P.O. Box 41505  
Nashville, TN 37204-1505  
1-800-626-0987

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

cooperating with  
Tennessee Department  
of Agriculture



# Agri-News

**Debra K. Kenerson**  
**State Director**

nass-tn@nass.usda.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## TENNESSEE WHEAT PRODUCERS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC

According to a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, wheat producers remain optimistic about this year's crop, despite weather, disease, and insect problems encountered during the month of May. Tennessee's 2004 winter wheat production is forecast at 14.3 million bushels, up 6 percent from a year earlier and unchanged from the May 1 forecast. The State's average yield is forecast at 53 bushels per acre, 3 bushels above 2003 and also unchanged from the previous forecast. Wheat producers expect to harvest 270,000 acres, unchanged from a year ago. Tennessee farmers seeded 400,000 acres last fall, 30,000 acres less than a year earlier and the lowest planted acreage since 1985. The remaining 130,000 acres was used as a cover crop or will be harvested for hay or silage.

As of June 6, virtually all of the wheat crop had turned color with nearly half of the acreage ripe. Disease pressure and weather related problems have been reported in a few areas. However, over three-fourths of the State's acreage was rated in good-to-excellent condition as of the third week of May. Harvest began on schedule during the first week of June with combining expected to become more prevalent in the next several weeks.

## U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the May 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2003. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.6 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast.

Area for 2004 grain harvest is forecast at 35.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1 but down 4 percent from 2003. As of May 30, heading had reached 87 percent in the 18 major States, 6 percentage points ahead of normal. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the growing area.

**Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., June 1, 2004 with Comparisons<sup>1</sup>**

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	570	630	50.0	51.0	28,500	32,130
Georgia	230	200	46.0	43.0	10,580	8,600
Kentucky	330	350	62.0	62.0	20,460	21,700
Mississippi	125	205	49.0	51.0	6,125	10,455
Missouri	870	950	61.0	55.0	53,070	52,250
North Carolina	410	480	36.0	47.0	14,760	22,560
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>14,310</b>
Virginia	160	155	46.0	63.0	7,360	9,765
United States	36,541	35,082	46.7	43.6	1,707,069	1,530,742

<sup>1</sup> 2004 forecast, 2003 final.

