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Agri-News

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TENNESSEE'S WHEAT PRODUCTION ABOVE LAST YEAR

Tennessee's winter wheat production is forecast at 15.0 million bushels, down 4 percent from the May 1 forecast, but 9 percent above 2002. Based on a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, wheat yields are forecast at 50 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from the last forecast, but 4 bushels above a year ago. Tennessee producers sowed 450,000 acres last fall, 20,000 acres less than a year earlier and the lowest acreage in 11 years. Growers intend to harvest 300,000 acres for grain, the same as last year. Weather during the month of May provided less than ideal conditions for the crop's development. Severe thunderstorms, heavy rains, hail, and wind during the first of May caused moderate to severe damage to 15 percent of the State's acreage. Above normal rainfall for the month also helped promote disease and weed pressure and hampered producers in their efforts to apply treatments. Conditions declined from 76 percent of the crop rated good-to-excellent at the first of the month to only 53 percent at the end. As of June 9, nearly all of the State's crop had turned color with 37 percent of the acreage ripe. The crop is rated in mostly good condition with harvest expected to begin soon.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.63 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the May 1 forecast and 42 percent above 2002. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.6 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 36.4 million acres, unchanged from May 1, but up 23 percent from 2002. As of June 1, heading had reached 84 percent in the 18 major States. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the growing area. Hard Red production is up 7 percent from a month ago to 1.01 billion bushels. Soft Red is down 1 percent from last month, and now totals 368 million bushels. White production totals 253 million bushels, up 1 percent from last month.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., JUNE 1, 2003 WITH COMPARISONS ¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	840	610	46.0	51.0	38,640	31,110
Georgia	200	230	41.0	50.0	8,200	11,500
Kentucky	340	300	53.0	57.0	18,020	17,100
Mississippi	205	125	44.0	50.0	9,020	6,250
Missouri	760	780	45.0	51.0	34,200	39,780
North Carolina	480	420	42.0	41.0	20,160	17,220
TENNESSEE	300	300	46.0	50.0	13,800	15,000
Virginia	170	160	63.0	58.0	10,710	9,280
United States	29,651	36,447	38.5	44.6	1,142,802	1,626,376

¹ 2003 forecast, 2002 final.