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TENNESSEE FARMERS ADJUST TO THE WEATHER

Tennessee farmers persevered through less than ideal conditions for planting their spring crops and made adjustments to some of their intended acres because of the weather. Based on survey information collected between May 30 and June 13 by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, producers will have fewer acres of cotton, tobacco, and hay from a year ago, while increasing acres of soybeans. Corn and sorghum acreage are expected to remain the same. Adverse weather during May caused the loss of thousands of acres of planted crops, many of which were re-planted to the same crop and some to different crops. State Statistician, Debra Kenerson stated "This has been a difficult spring for many of Tennessee's farmers. Weather has played a major role in the number of acres planted and the current condition of the State's crops." Major crop acreages and expected changes from last year are as follows: **Soybeans**, 1.18 million acres, up 2 percent; **Corn**, 690,000 acres, unchanged from 2002; **Cotton**, 560,000 acres, down 1 percent; **Burley tobacco**, 28,000 acres, down 7 percent; and **Hay**, 1.98 million acres, down 2 percent.

COTTON ACREAGE LOWEST IN 5 YEARS

Tennessee's planted area for 2003 cotton is estimated at 560,000 acres, 1 percent below a year ago and the lowest acreage since 1998. Cool, wet weather during May resulted in loss of acreage due to flooding and seedling disease. There were reports of some cotton fields having to be re-planted as many as three times. Growers were planting their fields in nearly all producing areas by the third week of April. Planting came to a standstill by the second week of May due to heavy rains. Progress lagged behind normal for the rest of the month and into June. Planting was finally completed by the second week of June, almost 2 weeks behind normal. As of the week ending June 22, 20 percent of the cotton acreage had reached the squaring stage, over a week behind the five-year average. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE UP 2 PERCENT

The 2003 soybean planted area is estimated at 1.18 million, up 2 percent from last year and the highest acreage in 3 years. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.15 million acres, 3 percent above 2002. Much of the increase from the March Intentions forecast is due to thousands of flooded corn and cotton acres lost during May, which have been or will be planted to soybeans. Soybean planting began during the last week of April, but quickly fell behind the normal pace due to wet weather. Persistent showers and thunderstorms hampered producers from making any substantial progress through much of May and planting was almost two full weeks behind normal by month's end. As of June 22, planting progress continues to be slowed by wet weather and was well behind last year and the normal pace. The majority of the crop was rated in mostly good condition with 53 percent emerged.

CORN AND SORGHUM ACREAGE SAME AS 2002

The 2003 planted area for corn for all purposes is at estimated 690,000 acres, unchanged from 2002. Growers expect to harvest 630,000 acres for grain, up 2 percent from 2002. Corn planting got underway on a record setting pace the first of April, but was slowed slightly due to wet, cool weather. By month's end, planting and development advanced ahead of last year and the normal pace. Severe weather during the first half of May, however, resulted in the flooding of thousands of acres of newly planted corn. Over a third of the acres sustained moderate to severe damage from the storms. The majority of acreage had been planted by the first of June. Currently, over a fourth of the crop has entered the silking stage with two-thirds of the crop rated in good-to-excellent condition. Area planted to sorghum in 2003 is estimated at 35,000 acres, the same as 2002. Area for grain harvest is estimated at 31,000 acres, also the same as 2002.

TOBACCO ACREAGE LOWEST IN 131 YEARS

The State's tobacco growers intend to harvest 34,040 acres, down 1,860 acres from a year ago and the lowest since 1872. By type, harvested area and change from 2002 for Tennessee's tobacco crops are as follows: Type 31 **Burley**, 28,000 acres, down 2,000 acres; Type 22 **Eastern dark-fired**, 5,100 acres, up 100 acres; Type 23 **Western dark-fired**, 400 acres, up 10 acres; and Type 35 **One-sucker**, 540 acres, up 30 acres. Tobacco transplanting began on schedule in early May, but quickly fell behind normal due to numerous showers and thunderstorms during the month. As of the week ending June 22, tobacco growers had transplanted 85 percent of their intended acreage, 8 percentage points behind the five-year average. There were reports of disease problems in some areas; however, the majority of the crop remains in fair-to-good condition.

LOWEST WHEAT PLANTED ACREAGE IN 11 YEARS

The 2003 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 430,000 acres, down 9 percent from the previous year and the lowest acreage since 1992. Anticipated area harvested for grain is 270,000 acres, 10 percent less than the 2002 total and the lowest harvested acreage in 18 years. Contributing to the decline in acres is less cover crop on cotton and tobacco ground, as well as depressed wheat prices. Planting of the 2003 winter wheat crop got underway by the first week of October. Producers struggled to wrap up fall seeding, as wet weather hindered the amount of acreage sown. As of June 22, slightly over a fourth of the acreage had been harvested, compared with three-fourths of the acreage normally harvested at this time. Nearly all of the intended acreage is ripe with producers hoping for more favorable conditions to accelerate harvest, which is almost two full weeks behind normal.

HAY ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

Tennessee producers intend to harvest 1.98 million acres of hay in 2003, down 2 percent from last year. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 30,000 acres, the same as a year earlier. All other hay is estimated at 1.95 million acres, down 50,000 acres from 2002. Tennessee's hay harvest got underway in most areas by late April. During May, growers experienced persistent rainfall that caused damage to some hay fields and delayed harvest. As of June 22, nearly all of the State's alfalfa hay had experienced a first cutting with other hay producers 88 percent complete on their first cutting. Both alfalfa and other hay have remained in mostly good condition throughout the growing season.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS: TENNESSEE AND U.S., 2002 - 2003

Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2003 / 2002
	1,000 Acres			Percent	
TENNESSEE					
Corn	690	690	620	630	102
Cotton	565	560	530		-
Soybeans	1,160	1,180	1,120	1,150	103
Winter Wheat	470	430	300	270	90
Sorghum	35	35	31	31	100
Hay, all	-	-	2,030	1,980	98
Alfalfa	-	-	30	30	100
All other	-	-	2,000	1,950	98
Tobacco, all	-	-	35.90	34.04	95
Eastern dark-fired (22)	-	-	5.00	5.10	102
Western dark-fired (23)	-	-	.39	.40	103
Burley (31)	-	-	30.00	28.00	93
One sucker (35)	-	-	.51	.54	106
UNITED STATES					
Corn	79,054	79,066	69,313	71,985	104
Cotton ²	13,957.6	13,924.0	12,426.6		-
Soybeans	73,758	73,653	72,160	72,681	101
Winter Wheat	41,735	44,349	29,651	36,491	123
Sorghum	9,580	9,477	7,299	8,121	111
Hay, all	-	-	64,497	64,379	100
Alfalfa	-	-	23,135	23,541	102
All other	-	-	41,362	40,838	99
Tobacco, all	-	-	428.66	413.71	97
Eastern dark-fired (22)	-	-	7.45	7.60	102
Western dark-fired (23)	-	-	2.79	2.80	100
Burley (31)	-	-	158.60	149.20	94
One sucker (35)	-	-	2.61	2.74	105

¹Estimate to be released August 12, 2003. ²U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.