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of Agriculture



Agri-News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 12, 2004

RECORD-BREAKING YIELDS EXPECTED FOR 2004

Tennessee farmers are expecting record-breaking yields during 2004 for corn, cotton and hay based on an August 1 crop yield survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Soybean yields are forecast to decline from last year's record, but still represent the second highest level ever. Burley tobacco yield prospects also decreased from a year ago, while dark-fired types increased slightly according to the recent survey results. State Director Debra Kenerson stated, "Moderate temperatures and timely rains during the growing season have most crops in good-to-excellent condition heading into the last half of the year and producers are very optimistic about potential yields." The August forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following: **Corn**, a record 138 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 833 pounds per acre, 27 pounds above 2003 and a new record; **Soybeans**, 37 bushels per acre, 4 bushels below the previous year but the second highest yield on record; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,800 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from last year; and **Hay**, 2.50 tons per acre, up 0.2 tons from last year and a new state record.

HIGHEST CORN PRODUCTION SINCE 1920

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 86.9 million bushels, up 5 percent from a year ago and the fifth highest on record. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 138 bushels per acre, 7 bushels above 2003 and, if realized, a new State record. The previous record was set in 2001 when the average yield was 132 bushels per acre. Acreage for grain is unchanged from 2003's total of 630,000 acres. Overall, the weather has been outstanding for corn development this year. As of August 6, eighty-four percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition with only light disease and insect pressure reported. As of the first week of August, 96 percent of the crop had reached the dough stage with three-fourths of the crop having entered the dent or beyond stage, a week ahead of schedule.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

Soybean production is forecast at 42.2 million bushels, down 8 percent from last year but still the second highest production since 1985. Yields are forecast at 37 bushels per acre, 4 bushels below 2003, but 7 bushels above the 5-year average. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.14 million acres, up 20,000 acres from a year ago. By the end of May, mild temperatures along with adequate soil moisture had planting progress ahead of the normal schedule and over two weeks ahead of last year. Ninety percent of the crop was planted by the end of June. As of August 8, eighty-two percent of the crop was blooming with almost two-thirds of the acreage setting pods, both ahead of normal. Although crop conditions declined slightly during July, eighty-one percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

RECORD-BREAKING COTTON PRODUCTION AND YIELD

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 980,000 bales, up 90,000 bales from last year and surpassing the previous record set in 2001 by 2,000 bales. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 833 pounds per acre, up 27 pounds from a year ago and, if realized, also a new state record. Producers expect to harvest 565,000 acres, up 7 percent from 2003. The 2004 crop was planted on-time and has had the heat units and sufficient moisture to lead to a potentially great crop. Development has run about a week ahead of the five-year average and early maturing crops, such as this year's, usually produce better than average yields. As of August 6, eighty-eight percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

(OVER)

LOWEST BURLEY PRODUCTION IN 68 YEARS

As of August 1, burley production is forecast at 45.0 million pounds, 5 percent below a year ago and the lowest production since 1936. Yields are forecast to average 1,800 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from 2003 and the lowest in 6 years. Tobacco transplanting ran slightly behind normal throughout the spring due to wet weather, but was completed on schedule by the end of June. The crop has endured excessive rainfall and heavy disease pressure. Almost three-fourths of the acreage had been topped by August 8, with the majority of the crop rated in fair-to-good condition. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,000 pounds for Type 22, Eastern Dark-Fired; and 3,400 pounds for Type 23, Western Dark-Fired; up 20 and 50 pounds, respectively, from a year ago. Type 35, Dark Air-Cured, is forecast at 2,400 pounds per acre, the same as 2003.

NEW STATE RECORD HAY YIELD AND PRODUCTION

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 a new record. Wet conditions during the spring hampered hay harvest, but farmers made good progress during June and July getting a second and sometimes third cutting. Hay has remained in mostly good condition throughout the growing season.

APPLE PRODUCTION DOWN 17 PERCENT

Apple production is estimated at 10.0 million pounds, down 17 percent from last year's production of 12.0 million pounds. During the first week of April, development was ahead of last year and the normal pace for both budding and blooming. By the end of the month, cool, wet conditions slowed crop progress, fostered diseases, and hindered spraying activities.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, AUGUST 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	630	131	138	82,530	86,940
Cotton ¹	lb.	530	565	806	833	890	980
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	1,140	41.0	37.0	45,920	42,180
Tobacco, All	lb.	31.14	31.38	2,108	2,039	65,632	63,972
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	1,800	47,500	45,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.54	.56	2,400	2,400	1,296	1,344
Winter Wheat	bu.	270	280	50.0	48.0	13,500	13,440
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,613,300	9,365,900
Corn for grain	bu.	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	10,113,887	10,923,099
Cotton ¹	lb.	12,003	13,317	730	727	18,255	20,183
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	80,816	84,499
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,519,000	2,598,400
Soybeans	bu.	72,321	73,655	33.4	39.1	2,417,565	2,876,627
Tobacco, All	lb.	411,150	413,550	1,952	2,140	802,654	884,873
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	156.30	1,850	1,908	281,698	298,230
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.84	2.86	2,748	2,883	7,805	8,244
Winter Wheat	bu.	36,541	34,825	46.7	42.8	1,707,069	1,489,408

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

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about August 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.