



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](mailto:nass-tn@nass.usda.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2004**

## **RECORD YIELDS EXPECTED FOR CORN AND COTTON**

Tennessee farmers are expecting record yields for their corn and cotton crops this year, according to a September 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Yield expectations improved from the previous month's forecast for most of Tennessee's row crops, as all seemed to have benefitted from favorable growing conditions during August. Timely showers provided sufficient moisture for crops and pastures, while moderate temperatures provided relief from typical August heat. The September forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 140 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from a year earlier and a new state record; **Cotton**, a record 827 pounds per acre and 21 pounds above 2003; **Soybeans**, 39 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from a year ago; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, unchanged from last year.

### **HIGHEST CORN PRODUCTION SINCE 1917**

The State's corn production is forecast at 88.2 million bushels, up 7 percent from 2003 and the largest production in 87 years. Corn yields are expected to average 140 bushels per acre, 9 bushels better than last year and a new record yield. If realized, this would surpass the record yield of 132 bushels set in 2001 by 8 bushels. Acreage for grain is unchanged from 2003's total of 630,000 acres. Weather conditions during August were ideal and helped bolster a potentially excellent crop. As of September 5, 88 percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition with one-fifth of the acreage harvested, about a week behind normal.

### **SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY**

Tennessee's soybean production is forecast at 44.5 million bushels, 3 percent below a year ago but 5 percent above last month. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 39 bushels per acre, up two bushels from last month but two bushels below the 2003 record yield of 41 bushels per acre. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.14 million acres, up 20,000 acres from last year. Favorable weather conditions during August proved beneficial for the crop's development with progress running ahead of normal and a full two weeks ahead of last year's crop. Despite a few occurrences of insects and diseases, the crop has been rated in mostly good condition throughout the season. As of September 5, 17 percent of the acreage was dropping leaves and early harvest had begun in a few areas.

### **RECORD COTTON YIELD PROJECTED**

Cotton production is forecast at 930,000 bales, up 40,000 bales from last year and the second highest production on record since 978,000 bales were produced in 2001. The State's cotton yield is forecast at 827 pounds of lint per acre, 21 pounds above last year and, if realized, a new state record. Producers expect to harvest 540,000 acres, up 2 percent from 2003. Timely rains during August helped the crop remain in mostly good-to-excellent condition throughout the month; however, below normal temperatures slowed crop development. As of September 5, a fourth of the acreage had open bolls, a week to 10 days behind normal. Defoliation was just getting underway.

### **BURLEY YIELD AND PRODUCTION UNCHANGED FROM A YEAR AGO**

Tennessee's burley tobacco growers expect to produce 47.5 million pounds, up 6 percent from last month but unchanged from 2003. Average burley yield is forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from last month but the same as the previous year. Producers plan to harvest 25,000 acres, also unchanged from a year ago. Warm, dry weather in the major producing areas aided in the improvement of the crop during August. Despite disease problems such as blue mold and black shank, conditions have been rated mostly good overall. As of September 7, burley harvest had reached 58 percent completion, air-cured 64 percent complete, and fire-cured 61 percent finished, all progressing in line with normal. Yields per acre are forecast at 3,000 pounds for Type 22, up 20 pounds from a year earlier; 3,400 pounds for Type 23, 50 pounds above the previous year; and 2,400 pounds for Type 35, unchanged from last year.

(Over)

**CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 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	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	12,000	10,000
Corn for grain	bu.	630	630	131	140	82,530	88,200
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	530	540	806	827	890	930
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	39.0	45,920	44,460
Tobacco, All	lb.	31.14	31.38	2,108	2,118	65,632	66,472
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	1,900	47,500	47,500
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
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,613,300	9,365,900
Corn for grain	bu.	71,139	73,377	142.2	149.4	10,113,887	10,960,710
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	12,003	13,223	730	758	18,255	20,895
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	2,835,989
Tobacco, All	lb.	411,150	413,550	1,952	2,134	802,654	882,568
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	1,929	281,698	301,450
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.84	2.86	2,748	2,923	7,805	8,359
Winter Wheat	bu.	36,541	34,825	46.7	42.8	1,707,069	1,489,408

<sup>1</sup> 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 September 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.