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# Agri-News

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## NEAR RECORD YIELDS FOR CORN AND SOYBEANS

Tennessee farmers are expected to reach near record yields on their corn and soybean crops this year. Most of the State's row crops appear to have benefitted from favorable growing conditions during August as yield prospects improved from the previous month's forecast. Burley tobacco remained unchanged from the August 1 forecast. According to the September Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, yield potential for the major fall crops are above the 5-year average. Crops and pastures improved from timely rainfall and moderate temperatures last month with most crops currently rated in good-to-excellent condition. The September forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 130 bushels per acre, up 23 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 709 pounds per acre, down 32 pounds from 2002; **Soybeans**, 36 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from a year ago; **Burley Tobacco**, 2,000 pounds per acre, 100 pounds above last year.

### CORN PRODUCTION HIGHEST IN 82 YEARS

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 81.9 million bushels, up 23 percent from 2002 and the highest since 1921. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 130 bushels per acre, up 23 bushels from last year and 10 bushels above the August forecast. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record and just 2 bushels below the record of 132 bushels in 2001. Acreage harvested for grain is estimated at 630,000 acres, 2 percent above a year ago and the highest since 1996. Weather conditions during August have proven very favorable for the corn crop. The crop has developed about a week behind the normal pace through most of the month. Currently, the crop is rated in mostly good condition with one-fifth of the acreage harvested.

### LARGEST SOYBEAN PRODUCTION SINCE 1985

The State's soybean production is forecast at 41.4 million bushels, up 19 percent from last year and the largest production in 18 years. Soybean yields are forecast at 36 bushels per acre, 5 bushels above 2002 and the second largest yield on record. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.15 million acres, 3 percent above the previous year. Showers and thunderstorms during May hindered planting progress by almost 2 full weeks behind the normal schedule. Virtually all of the State's soybeans were planted by the first week of July with development lagging about a week behind the normal pace. By the third week of August, however, soybean development picked up speed and was progressing in line with normal. During this time, the crop was rated in mostly good condition despite a few problems with insects and disease. Recent rains have helped fill pods and thirteen percent of the acreage was dropping leaves. By the first week of September, a few fields had been harvested.

### COTTON PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

Cotton production is forecast at 790,000 bales, 50,000 bales more than last month, but down 3 percent from 2002. Tennessee's cotton yield is forecast at 709 pounds of lint per acre, 45 pounds above the August forecast, but down 32 pounds from last year. Cotton growers are expected to harvest 535,000 acres, up 1 percent from a year ago. This year's cotton crop experienced planting delays due to frequent showers during May. By mid-June, planting was virtually complete. Development has lagged almost two weeks behind normal throughout most of the growing season. As of August 31, the crop was maturing with one-fourth of the acreage showing open bolls. A few producers had begun applying defoliant by the first week of September. Currently, over three-fourths of cotton crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

## BURLEY PRODUCTION LOWEST IN 62 YEARS

Tennessee's burley tobacco growers expect to produce 56.0 million pounds, down 1.0 million pounds from last year and if realized, the lowest production since 1942. The average yield is forecast at 2,000 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from a year earlier and unchanged from the previous forecast. Farmers plan to harvest 28,000 acres, 7 percent below a year ago. Yields per acre are forecast at 2,900 pounds for Type 22; 3,200 pounds for Type 23; and 2,400 pounds for Type 35, all unchanged from the August forecast, but down from last year. The month of August brought above average rainfall to many producing areas. There have been problems with black shank and blue mold this season thus contributing to around a tenth of the acreage in very poor-to-poor condition. As of August 31, burley harvest had reached 44 percent completion, air-cured 58 percent complete, and fire-cured 45 percent finished. The majority of the crop was rated in fair-to-good condition.

### CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2002	Indicated 2003	2002	Indicated 2003	2002	Indicated 2003
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	6,500	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	620	630	107	130	66,340	81,900
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	530	535	741	709	818	790
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	1,950	2.20	2.50	4,400	4,875
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	4,000	3,500
Soybeans	bu.	1,120	1,150	31.0	36.0	34,720	41,400
Tobacco, All	lb.	35.90	34.04	2,096	2,155	75,261	73,366
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	5.0	5.1	3,110	2,900	15,550	14,790
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.39	.40	3,550	3,200	1,385	1,280
Burley (31)	lb.	30.0	28.0	1,900	2,000	57,000	56,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.51	.54	2,600	2,400	1,326	1,296
Winter Wheat	bu.	300	270	46.0	52.0	13,800	14,040
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,555,600	9,266,600
Corn for grain	bu.	69,313	71,815	130.0	138.5	9,007,659	9,944,418
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	12,426.6	12,192.4	665	667	17,208.6	16,938.5
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	77,138	82,066
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,575,400	2,618,100
Soybeans	bu.	72,160	72,626	37.8	36.4	2,729,709	2,642,644
Tobacco, All	lb.	428.66	413.71	2,055	2,008	880,734	830,771
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.45	7.60	3,126	2,966	23,292	22,540
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	2.79	2.80	3,636	3,371	10,145	9,440
Burley (31)	lb.	158.60	149.20	1,892	1,947	300,051	290,535
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.61	2.74	2,922	2,641	7,626	7,236
Winter Wheat	bu.	29,651	36,491	38.5	46.9	1,142,802	1,712,150

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