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RECORD YIELDS EXPECTED DESPITE CONTRASTING CONDITIONS

September weather presented contrasting conditions for Tennessee farmers. Producers in West Tennessee enjoyed near ideal conditions for crop development and harvest, while those in lower middle and eastern parts of the state experienced mild to severe crop damage from several storms during the month. Overall though, yield prospects for the state's major crops remained extremely favorable and basically unchanged from the September forecast. The October 1 Yield Survey conducted by Tennessee Agricultural Statistics showed that record yields continue to be expected for this year's corn, cotton, and hay crops. The October 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**, 40 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from a year ago; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, unchanged from last year; and **Hay**, excluding alfalfa, 2.5 tons per acre, up 0.2 tons from 2003 and a new state record.

RECORD CORN YIELDS EXPECTED

Corn production is forecast at 85.4 million bushels, up 3 percent from 2003 and the largest production since 1920. The State's corn yields are expected to average 140 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from a year ago and a new state record. Tennessee's planted area for 2004 is now estimated at 680,000 acres, while acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 610,000 acres, 20,000 acres less than 2003. Favorable weather conditions allowed producers to harvest over 90 percent of the grain acreage by the first week of October, while virtually all of the silage had been harvested by the end of September. Remnants of Hurricane Ivan missed the West Tennessee corn crop, but many fields in the east and lower middle areas of the state suffered damage from heavy rains and high winds.

SECOND HIGHEST SOYBEAN YIELD

The State's soybean production is forecast at 47.2 million bushels, virtually unchanged from last year, but 6 percent above last month's forecast. If realized, this would be the highest production in 20 years. Soybean yields are expected to average 40 bushels per acre, up a bushel from last month and the second highest on record. The 2004 soybean planted area is now estimated at 1.21 million acres, while acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.18 million acres, up 5 percent from 2003 and the highest in 5 years. Timely rains during the first week of September along with moderate temperatures provided much needed moisture for late planted beans. Soybean development progressed ahead of last year and the 5-year average throughout much of September. By month's end, 68 percent of the acreage was dropping leaves with over a quarter of acreage harvested. As of October 1, 79 percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

COTTON YIELD SETS A NEW STATE RECORD

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 930,000 bales, up 40,000 from 2003 and the second highest production on record. Based on condition as of October 1, cotton yields are forecast at 827 pounds of lint per acre, up 21 pounds from a year ago and a new State record. Growers expect to harvest 540,000 acres, 10,000 more than 2003. As of October 3, 87 percent of the acreage had open bolls with two-thirds of the State's acreage defoliated. Almost one-fifth of the cotton acreage had been harvested, slightly ahead of last year but more than a week behind the 5-year average.

BURLEY YIELD AND PRODUCTION REMAIN STEADY

Burley tobacco growers expect to produce 47.5 million pounds, unchanged from last month's forecast and from the previous year. Tennessee's burley yields are forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, also the same as last month. Farmers plan to harvest 25,000 acres for 2004, the same as a year ago. As of October 3, 91 percent of the burley acreage had been harvested, in line with normal. Hurricane Ivan damaged some acreage and caused flooding, but the full extent of loss remains unknown at this time. 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)

STATE RECORD HAY YIELD

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 also a new record. Harvested area is estimated at 1.95 million acres, 50,000 acres less than a year ago. The State's hay fields and pastures have benefitted greatly from timely rains this year as second and third cuttings continue into October. Pastures and hayland have remained in mostly good condition throughout the growing season.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 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	610	131	140	82,530	85,400
Cotton ¹	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	1,180	42.0	40.0	47,040	47,200
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	49.0	13,500	13,720
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,613,300	9,458,900
Corn for grain	bu.	71,139	73,311	142.2	158.4	10,113,887	11,613,226
Cotton ¹	lb.	12,003	13,223	730	782	18,255	21,545
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.25	80,816	88,549
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,519,000	2,598,400
Soybeans	bu.	72,476	73,990	33.9	42.0	2,453,665	3,106,861
Tobacco, All	lb.	411,150	409,610	1,952	2,156	802,654	883,168
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	154.10	1,850	1,958	281,698	301,710
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.84	2.86	2,748	2,883	7,805	8,244
Winter Wheat	bu.	36,541	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434

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 October 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.