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Agri-News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 12, 2003

EXCELLENT SEASON RESULTS IN RECORD-BREAKING YIELDS

Based on the results of a November 1 Grower Survey conducted by Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee farmers are wrapping up an excellent growing season with record-breaking yields expected for corn, cotton, and soybeans, as outstanding October weather provided favorable “finishing touches.” Virtually all of the State’s corn and almost half of the cotton and soybean acreage had been harvested by the end of October. State Statistician Debra Kenerson stated that “Although crops were planted late, summer and fall weather have proven beneficial as record setting yields are being reported.” She added, “Clear skies and warm temperatures throughout much of last month boosted crops progress and increased projected yields from our previous forecast.” Results from the November 1 survey showed the following: **Corn**, a record 134 bushels per acre and 27 bushels above 2002; **Cotton**, 772 pounds per acre, up 31 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, an unsurpassed 40 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from a year ago.

HIGHEST CORN PRODUCTION IN 83 YEARS AND NEW STATE YIELD

The State’s corn production is forecast at 87.1 million bushels, exceeding 2002 production by almost a third and the highest since 1920. Corn yields are expected to average 134 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from our last forecast and 27 bushels above a year ago. If realized, this would surpass the record breaking yield of 132 bushels set in 2001. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 650,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from last year and the highest since 1996. Dry conditions last month were favorable for corn growers to wrap up harvest activities. Virtually all of the State’s corn had been combined by mid-to-late October, on pace with last year and normal.

STATE RECORD SOYBEAN YIELD

Soybean production is forecast at 46.0 million bushels, 32 percent above 2002 and the highest in 19 years. Tennessee’s soybean yield is forecast at 40 bushels per acre, 2 bushels above our previous forecast and a new state record. If realized, this exceeds the previous record set in 1994 by 3.5 bushels. Growers are expected to harvest 1.15 million acres, 3 percent above a year ago. Warm and dry temperatures during October provided ideal conditions for final development and harvest. As of November 2, 61 percent of the State’s acreage had been harvested, outpacing last year and slightly behind the 5-year average.

RECORD COTTON YIELD ANTICIPATED

Tennessee’s cotton production is forecast at 860,000 bales, up 10,000 bales from our previous forecast and 5 percent above 2002. The average per acre lint yield from Tennessee’s 535,000 acres is expected to set a new record of 772 pounds, up 9 pounds from October’s forecast and 31 pounds more than a year ago. Weather conditions during October proved to be ideal for the Tennessee cotton crop as temperatures as much as 15 degrees above normal for an extended period of time helped bolls mature properly. During the last week of October, nearly half of the cotton acreage had been harvested with defoliation virtually completed. Harvest progressed in line with last year but well behind normal. The crop was rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition throughout the month.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 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	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	6,500	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	620	650	107	134	66,340	87,100
Cotton ¹	lb.	530	535	741	772	818	860
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	1,950	2.20	2.60	4,400	5,070
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	4,000	3,500
Soybeans	bu.	1,120	1,150	31.0	40.0	34,720	46,000
Tobacco, All	lb.	35.90	34.04	2,096	2,255	75,261	76,770
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	5.0	5.1	3,110	3,000	15,550	15,300
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.39	.40	3,550	3,300	1,385	1,320
Burley (31)	lb.	30.0	28.0	1,900	2,100	57,000	58,800
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.51	.54	2,600	2,500	1,326	1,350
Winter Wheat	bu.	300	270	46.0	50.0	13,800	13,500
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,555,600	9,351,600
Corn for grain	bu.	69,313	71,765	130.0	143.2	9,007,659	10,277,932
Cotton ¹	lb.	12,426.6	12,107.4	665	722	17,208.6	18,215.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	77,138	82,183
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,575,400	2,618,100
Soybeans	bu.	72,437	72,538	38.0	33.8	2,749,340	2,451,759
Tobacco, All	lb.	428.70	413.01	2,055	2,044	880,734	844,298
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.45	7.60	3,126	3,066	23,292	23,300
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	2.79	2.80	3,636	3,471	10,145	9,720
Burley (31)	lb.	158.60	149.20	1,892	2,033	300,051	303,300
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.61	2.74	2,922	2,821	7,626	7,730
Winter Wheat	bu.	29,751	36,541	38.5	46.7	1,145,602	1,707,069

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