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NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Hay Acreage Increases, Other Spring Planted Crops Decrease or Remain Unchanged

According to a survey conducted in early June by the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service, Virginia's producers planted more acres to row crops in 2002. Corn presented the largest increase in 2002, while soybeans, the largest row crop in the Commonwealth, showed a significant decrease in acres planted.

Farmers in the Commonwealth finished planting corn by the survey reference date and reported that 510,000 acres had been planted. This is an increase of 40,000 acres from both 2000 and 2001 crop years. Corn producers expect to harvest 370,000 acres for grain, which is 12 percent above last year. Soybean acreage decreased by 20,000 this year to 480,000 acres, 4 percent lower than last year. By June 1, about 43 percent of the soybean crop had been planted, which was ahead of the five year average.

Tobacco acreage devoted to flue, burley, dark, and sun fired will be mixed in 2002. Flue-cured producers will harvest 22,000 acres this year compared to 20,500 acres last year. Burley producers plan to harvest 8,000 acres, 4 percent above 2001. Acres of dark fire and sun tobacco remain unchanged from the initial forecast of 700 and 60 acres respectively.

Nearly all of Virginia's peanut crop and all of the cotton had been planted by June 1, which was equal to or ahead of normal. Producers planted 98,000 acres of cotton this year, which is 7 percent below last year and 11 percent below 2000. Peanut producers planted 65,000 acres this year, which is 10,000 acres less than the acres of peanuts planted last year.

Winter wheat acres seeded last fall for harvest this season were 230,000 acres, up 15 percent from the amount of acres planted last year. However, wheat producers are expecting to harvest 185,000 acres, which is 15,000 acres more than last year. Barley seeded acreage increased 7 percent from last year and is estimated at 75,000. Barley producers anticipate harvesting 50,000 acres this year, which is unchanged from last year.

Virginia's hay producers intend to harvest 1,370,000 acres of hay in 2002. Acres harvested for other hay has increased by 50,000 acres this year compared to the acres harvested in 2001.

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Corn Planted Acreage Up 4 Percent from 2001 Soybean Acreage Down 2 Percent

U.S. **corn** planted for all purposes is estimated at 78.9 million acres, up 4 percent from 2001 but down 1 percent from 2000. Growers expect to harvest 72.1 million acres for grain, up 5 percent from 2001. Farmers reduced corn plantings 100,000 acres from their March intentions.

The U.S. **soybean** planted area is estimated at 73.0 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 72.0 million acres, down 1 percent from 2001. The planted acreage is up 27,000 acres from March intentions.

The 2002 U.S. **winter wheat** planted area, at 41.4 million acres, is less than 1 percent above both last year and the previous estimate. Winter wheat area harvested for grain is expected to total 29.8 million acres, down 1 percent from the June 1 forecast.

U.S. **barley** growers seeded 5.05 million acres for 2002, up 2 percent from the 4.97 million acres seeded a year ago. This level is an increase from the record low planted acreage of 2001. Acres for harvest, at 4.50 million, rebounded 5 percent from the 2001 level.

All U.S. **cotton** plantings for 2002 are expected to total 14.4 million acres, 9 percent below last year. U.S. upland cotton acreage is estimated at 14.2 million acres, down 9 percent from 2001.

Producers in the U.S. expect to harvest 64.7 million acres of all **hay** in 2002, up less than 2 percent from 2001. This is the largest harvested acreage of all hay since 1988. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixture are estimated at 24.1 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, published in the Crop Production 2001 Summary, were 6 percent higher in 2001 compared to 2000. All other hay is estimated at 40.6 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

Acreage planted to **peanuts** in the U.S. in 2002 is estimated at 1.47 million acres, down 5 percent from 2001 plantings and down 4 percent from the 2000 level. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.41 million acres, virtually unchanged from last year.

U.S. all **tobacco** area for harvest in 2002 is forecast at 435,360 acres, up 1 percent from both the 2001 crop and the March intentions. Flue-cured tobacco, at 248,800 acres, is 4 percent above a year ago and 1 percent above March intentions. Flue-cured acreage accounts for 57 percent of this year's total tobacco acreage. Burley tobacco, at 161,400 acres, is down 2 percent from a year ago but 2 percent above March intentions. Three burley producing States expect a decline in acres from last year. These States are Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee which are down 1 percent, 3 percent, and 6 percent, respectively. Virginia is up 4 percent from 2001.

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