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# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### VIRGINIA ROW CROP YIELDS DOWN, SMALL GRAIN YIELDS UP

Virginia's hot and dry weather conditions have taken their toll on row crops and hay. The Virginia cotton crop is expected to be down from the previous year. Cotton yield is forecast to average 768 pounds per acre, down 17 percent from last years 929 pounds per acre. Production would be 160,000 bales, down 20 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 100,000 acres in 2002, down 4 percent from last year.

Peanut production is greatly reduced due to changes in the Farm Bill. Many producers reduced their acreage or decided against planting for the 2002 crop. Harvested acreage is expected at 58,000 acres, down 17,000 acres from 2001. Yield is forecast at 2,900 pounds per acre which is 230 pounds per acre below the previous year. Resulting production will be 28 percent below 2001 at 168,200,000 pounds.

Soybean producers currently expect to harvest 460,000 acres with an average yield of 27 bushels per acre. Production is expected to total 12.42 million bushels, down 28 percent from last year.

Virginia's corn yields are expected to be 89 bushels per acre which is 28 percent lower than last year. Production is estimated at 32.93 million bushels, down 19 percent from 2001. Harvested acres at 370,000 is up 12 percent from last year.

Hay acres harvested are unchanged from 2001. Producers expect to harvest 120,000 acres of alfalfa hay with an average yield of 2.8 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 336,000 tons, down 1 percent from 2001. There are 1.25 million acres of other hay expected to be harvested in Virginia. The yield for other hay is expected to average 1.8 tons per acre, down 10 percent from last year. Production is expected to total 2.25 million tons, down 6 percent from previous year.

Barley yields averaged 82 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels per acre from last year. The resulting production will total 4.1 million bushels, up 9 percent from last year. Barley producers harvested 50,000 acres, which is unchanged from last year.

Winter wheat production is expected to total nearly 11.7 million bushels which is up 14 percent from the previous year. Yield is forecast at 63 bushels per acre compared with 60 bushels last year. Harvested acreage is up 15,000 acres from 2001 to 185,000 acres.

Flue tobacco producers are optimistic for better than expected yields despite the hot, dry weather. Yield is forecast at 2,250 pounds, down 120 pounds from 2001. Production will total 49.5 million pounds from 22,000 acres. Harvested acreage increased 1,500 acres due to quota increases.

The Commonwealth's burley tobacco 2002 forecast indicates that yields will be higher than 2001. Burley yields are expected to average 1,900 pounds, up 17 percent from last year's 1,620 pound average. Production is expected to total 15.2 million pounds, up 22 percent from 2001. Producers expect to harvest 8,000 acres, up 4 percent from 2001.

Fire-cured tobacco yields are expected to average 1,900 pounds per acre, up 5 percent from 2001. Production is expected to total 1.33 million pounds, down 39 percent from 2002. Producers expect to harvest 700 acres in 2002, down 500 acres from last year.

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**U.S. CORN PRODUCTION DOWN 7 PERCENT FROM 2001;  
U.S. SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN 9 PERCENT**

U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 8.89 billion bushels, down 7 percent from last year and down 10 percent from 2000. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1995. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 125.2 bushels per acre, down 13.0 bushels from last year. Yields are mostly lower than 2001 across much of the United States as wet weather during planting caused delays in the eastern Corn Belt. Also, persistent hot, dry weather has stunted growth and limited yield potential over many areas of the United States. Farmers expect to harvest 71.0 million acres of corn for grain, down 1.08 million acres from June, but up 3 percent from 2001.

U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.63 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2001 and 5 percent below 2000. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 36.5 bushels per acre, down 3.1 bushels from 2001. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996.

All U.S. **cotton** production is forecast at 18.4 million 480-pound bales, down 9 percent from last year's record high production. The yield is expected to average 675 pounds per harvested acre, down 30 pounds from 2001. The reduced production is due to lower acreage and yields, but is partially offset by less abandonment when compared to a year ago. Upland cotton production is forecast at 17.8 million 480-pound bales, 9 percent below 2001.

The final U.S. **winter wheat** production forecast is 1.16 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1971. This is down 2 percent from last month, and 15 percent below 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 38.9 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushels from last month.

U.S. **barley** production for 2002 is forecast at 252 million bushels, down 5 percent from the July forecast, but 1 percent above 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 55.9 bushels per acre, down 3.1 bushels from July and down 2.3 bushels from last year. Area harvested, at 4.50 million acres, is unchanged from the July estimate, but up 210,000 acres from 2001.

U.S. **peanut** production is forecast at 4.11 billion pounds, down 4 percent from last year's crop, but 26 percent above 2000. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.43 million acres, 1 percent above the June estimate and up 1 percent from 2001. Yields are expected to average 2,885 pounds 144 pounds below last year, but up 441 pounds from 2000.

U.S. **flue-cured** production is expected to total 534 million pounds, up 1 percent from the previous forecast but down 8 percent from 2001. Growers plan to harvest 248,800 acres in 2002, up 4 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,144 pounds per acre, up 12 pounds from the July 1 forecast but 288 pounds lower than the previous year. Timely rainfall in North Carolina's eastern coastal region, the State's largest producing area, contributed to the increase from July 1. Dry weather and the tomato spotted wilt virus, particularly in the Carolinas and Georgia, have stressed the crop, causing lower expected yields than last year.

U.S. **burley** production is expected to total 327 million pounds, 2 percent below a year ago. Yields are expected to average 2,022 pounds per acre, down 11 pounds from 2001. Burley growers plan to harvest 161,500 acres, 2 percent below a year ago. Kentucky's acreage, at 104,000, is 1 percent below last year. Dry weather and disease pressure, particularly black shank and blue mold, have caused increased stress on the tobacco crop.

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