



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Number 9

Released: September 11, 2003

VIRGINIA'S CORN, PEANUT AND SOYBEAN YIELDS UP FROM PREVIOUS FORECAST

Results from a survey conducted September 1 by the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service indicate that Virginia's corn, peanut and soybean yields have increased since the last forecast on August 1. Timely rains coupled with warm sunny conditions have improved crop conditions.

Virginia's corn yields are expected to average 130 bushels per acre, an increase of 5 bushels per acre from the previous forecast of 125 bushels per acre on August 1. Production is expected to total 35.8 million bushels, which is up 4 percent from the previous forecast.

The state's peanut yield is forecast at 2,800 pounds per acre, 100 pounds per acre higher than the August forecast. If realized, production would total 92.4 million pounds, 4 percent above the previous forecast but 23 percent below the previous year.

Soybean producers are expected to harvest an average of 34 bushels per acre from 490,000 acres. This is an increase of 4 bushels per acre from the previous forecast and an increase of 11 bushels from the previous year. Production is expected to total 16.7 million bushels.

The state's cotton yield is forecast at 734 pounds per acre, up from 717 pounds per acre on August 1. Production is expected to total 130 thousand bales.

Flue-cured tobacco yields are forecast at 1,700 pounds per acre and production is expected to total 34 million pounds from 20,000 acres based on September 1 conditions. This would be 34 percent below last year's production.

Burley tobacco yields are forecast at 1,600 pounds per acre. This would bring total production to 10.4 million pounds from 6,500 acres. This compares with last year's average yield of 1,900 pounds per acre and a total production of 13.7 million pounds harvested from 7,200 acres.

Fire tobacco yield is forecast at 1,700 pounds per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast. Production is forecast at nearly 1.4 million pounds.

Sun tobacco yields remains unchanged from the August forecast. Sun producers will harvest 70 acres yielding 1,600 pounds to the acre. This would make production 112,000 pounds.

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Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Corn Production Down 1 Percent from August Forecast

Soybean Production Down 8 Percent Cotton Production Down 1 Percent

U.S. corn production is forecast at 9.94 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last month but 10 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 138.5 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from August but up 8.5 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the second largest on record. The record for both was set in 1994 when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 138.6 bushels per acre.

U.S. soybean production is forecast at 2.64 billion bushels, down 8 percent from the August forecast and 3 percent below 2002. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 36.4 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from August. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996.

All U.S. cotton production is forecast at 16.9 million 480-pound bales, down 1 percent from last month and 2 percent below last year's production. Yield is expected to average 667 pounds per acre, the same as last month. The lower production, compared to last month, is due primarily to reduced harvested area of 110,000 acres based on administrative data. The September harvested area is expected to total 12.2 million acres.

Production of U.S. peanuts is forecast at 3.99 billion pounds up 1 percent from last month and up 20 percent from 2002. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.28 million acres, unchanged from August but 2 percent below the 2002 harvested acreage. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,121 pounds per acre, 19 pounds per acre above the August forecast and 560 pounds above the 2002 level.

U.S. all tobacco production is forecast at 831 million pounds, 1 percent below the August 1 forecast and down 6 percent from 2002. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1897. Area for harvest is forecast at 413,710 acres, unchanged from last month but down 3 percent from 2002. Yields for 2003 are expected to average 2,008 pounds per acre, 23 pounds lower than the August forecast and 47 pounds below a year ago.

Flue-cured production in the U.S. is expected to total 477 million pounds, 2 percent below last month and down 8 percent from 2002. Growers plan to harvest 239,000 acres in 2003, down 3 percent from last year. Yields are forecast to average 1,996 pounds per acre, 38 pounds below the August forecast and 109 pounds less than the previous year.

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