



# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### **VIRGINIA'S SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION DOWN FROM 2002**

Virginia's small grain production was down from last year, according to the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. These results were based on a survey of producers conducted in early September. The survey indicated that final wheat production for the 2003 crop year was nearly 7.4 million bushels from 160,000 acres, down 31 percent from last year. Wheat yields averaged 46 bushels per acre, down 17 bushels per acre from last year.

Barley production for 2003 totaled nearly 2.8 million bushels, down 9 percent from last year. Barley acreage harvested was up at 45,000 acres. This compares with 40,000 harvested acres in 2002. Producers averaged 62 bushels per acre, down 15 bushels per acre from last year.

### **U.S. WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 44 PERCENT; U.S. BARLEY PRODUCTION UP 22 PERCENT**

All U.S. wheat production totaled 2.34 billion bushels in 2003, up 2 percent from the last forecast and 44 percent above 2002. Grain area is 52.8 million acres, up 15 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.2 bushels per acre, up 8.9 bushels from a year ago. Levels of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.71 billion bushels, up 49 percent; other spring wheat, 533 million bushels, up 35 percent; and Durum wheat, 96.6 million bushels, up 22 percent.

U.S. barley production is estimated at 276 million bushels, down 2 percent from the last forecast but up 22 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 58.9 bushels, is up 1.4 bushels from the last forecast and 4.0 bushels above 2002. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.69 million acres, down 4 percent from August but 14 percent above a year ago.

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