



# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### **OTHER HAY, SOYBEAN, PEANUT AND TOBACCO 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 farmers planted more acres to row crops in 2004. Other hay presented the largest increase in 2004, with soybeans, the largest row crop in the Commonwealth, showing only a modest gain.

Other hay acreage increased by 100,000 acres this year to 1,250,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year and equal to 2002. Alfalfa hay decreased from 130,000 acres in 2003 to 120,000 acres in 2004. Virginia's soybean producers planted 510,000 acres of soybeans in 2004. This was an increase of 10,000 acres or 2 percent increase from 2003.

Nearly all of Virginia's peanut crop had been planted by June 1, which was slightly ahead of normal. Producers planted 35,000 acres this year, which is 1,000 acres more than peanuts planted last year. Virginia farmers planted 85,000 acres of cotton this year, which is 4 percent below last year and 15 percent below 2002.

Burley producers plan to harvest 7,500 acres which is 15 percent above last year. Flue-cured, dark fire and sun remain unchanged from the initial forecast of 23,000, 700 and 70 acres respectively.

Farmers in the Commonwealth were nearly finished planting corn by the survey reference date and reported that 470,000 acres had been planted. This is equal to the acreage planted last year and 30,000 acres below 2002. Corn producers expect to harvest 330,000 acres for grain, which is equal to last year.

Winter wheat acres seeded last fall for harvest this season were 210,000 acres, unchanged from 2003. Wheat producers are expecting to harvest 190,000 acres, which is 30,000 acres more than last year. Barley seeded acreage decreased 33 percent from last year and is estimated at 50,000. Barley producers anticipate harvesting 40,000 acres this year, which is 5,000 acres below last year.

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**U.S. Corn Planted Acreage Up 3 Percent from 2003**

**U.S. Soybean Acreage Up 2 Percent**

**U.S. All Wheat Acreage Down 3 Percent**

**U.S. All Cotton Acreage Up 3 Percent**

U.S. **corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 81.0 million acres, up 3 percent from both 2002 and 2003. Growers expect to harvest 73.4 million acres for grain, up 3 percent from 2003. Farmers increased corn plantings 1.96 million acres from their March intentions. Farmers reported that 98 percent of the corn acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, which is 1 percentage point above the average for the past 10 years.

The 2004 U.S. **soybean** planted area is estimated at 74.8 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record and a rebound from the three year decline in acreage. Area for harvest, at 73.7 million acres, is also up 2 percent from 2003. The planted area is down 602,000 acres from the March Prospective Plantings report. Farmers reported that 87 percent of the intended soybean acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, compared to an average of 78 percent for the past 10 years.

U.S. all **wheat** planted area is estimated at 59.9 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Harvested area is expected to total 50.7 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. The 2004 winter wheat planted area, at 43.5 million acres, is 3 percent below last year, but up fractionally from the previous estimate.

All U.S. **cotton** plantings for 2004 are expected to total 13.9 million acres, 3 percent above 2003. Upland acreage is expected to total 13.7 million acres, also a 3 percent increase.

Area planted to U.S. **peanuts** in 2004 is estimated at 1.39 million acres, up 3 percent from 2003. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.35 million acres, also up 3 percent from last year.

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