



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

National Agricultural Statistics Service • United States Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 1659 • Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659 • Phone (804) 771-2493

Internet: nass-va@nass.usda.gov • World Wide Web: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Contact: Kevin Barnes, State Statistician

Number 13

Released: November 12, 2003

VIRGINIA'S PEANUT AND COTTON YIELDS UP FROM THE PREVIOUS FORECAST

The state's peanut yield is forecast at 2,900 pounds per acre. This was up 100 pounds from the previous forecast and up 800 pounds from the previous year. Production is estimated at 95.7 million pounds, down 20 percent from last year. The large drop in production is attributed to a 24,000 acre drop in harvested acres. Producers are expected to harvest 33,000 acres in 2003.

Cotton yields are forecast at 734 pounds per acre, up 56 pounds from last month and up 269 pounds from last year. Production is expected to total 130,000 bales. Cotton growers in the Commonwealth are expected to harvest 85,000 acres in 2003.

Virginia's corn producers averaged 125 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from the October forecast but up 59 bushels from last year. Corn for grain production is expected to total 34.4 million bushels from 275,000 acres.

Soybean producers are making good progress with 39 percent of the crop harvested compared to 35 percent last year. The November forecast for soybean yield is estimated at 34 bushels per acre, equal to the previous forecast and up 11 bushels from last year. Virginia soybean producers are expected to harvest 480,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year.

- Over -

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass/

Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

**U.S. Corn Production Up 1 Percent from October;
Forecast U.S. Soybean Production Down 1 Percent;
U.S. Cotton Production Up 4 Percent**

Corn production in the U.S. is forecast at 10.3 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 14 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 143.2 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from October and up 13.2 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. Both previous records were set in 1994. Of the major producing States, Illinois and Ohio are expecting record yields. Yields are also forecast at record highs in 8 other States located mostly in the Southeast.

U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.45 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the October forecast and 11 percent below 2002. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 33.8 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from October and down 4.2 bushels from 2002.

All U.S. **cotton** production is forecast at 18.2 million 480-pound bales, up 4 percent from October and up 6 percent from last year's production. Yield is expected to average a record high 722 pounds per harvested acre, up 26 pounds from last month. If realized, it will be 14 pounds above the previous record high yield established in 1994.

U.S. **peanut** production is forecast at 4.09 billion pounds, up 4 percent from last month and up 23 percent from 2002. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.28 million acres, unchanged from the October estimate but down 2 percent from 2002. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,205 pounds per acre, 110 pounds above last month and up 644 pounds from 2002. Record high yields are forecast for Georgia, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

###