



# 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](mailto:nass-va@nass.usda.gov) • World Wide Web: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

---

Contact: Kevin Barnes, Director

Number 15

Released: September 10, 2004

### VIRGINIA'S CORN YIELD UP FROM PREVIOUS FORECAST

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

Virginia corn yields are expected to average 143 bushels per acre, an increase of 6 bushels per acre from the previous forecast of 137 bushels per acre on August 1. Production is expected to total nearly 47.2 million bushels, which is up 4 percent from the previous forecast.

The state's peanut yield remains the same as the previous forecast at 3,100 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 99.2 million pounds. Peanut producers will harvest 32,000 acres in 2004 which is a decrease of 1,000 acres from the previous year.

Soybean producers expect to harvest an average of 36 bushels per acre from 490,000 acres. This remains unchanged from the August 1 forecast. Production is expected to total 17.6 million bushels.

The state's cotton yield is forecast at 836 pounds per acre, down from 877 pounds per acre on August 1. Production is expected to total 141 thousand bales.

Flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,350 pounds per acre and production is expected to total 54 million pounds from 23,000 acres based on September 1 conditions. If realized this would be 78 percent above last year's production.

Burley tobacco yield is forecast at 1,850 pounds per acre. This would bring total production to 13.9 million pounds from 7,500 acres. This compares with last year's average yield of 1,150 pounds per acre and a total production of 7.5 million pounds harvested from 6,500 acres.

Fire tobacco yield is forecast at 1,850 pounds per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast. Production is forecast at nearly 1.3 million pounds from 700 acres.

Sun tobacco yield remains unchanged from the August forecast. Sun producers will harvest 70 acres yielding 1,500 pounds to the acre. This would make production 105,000 pounds.

-over-

**Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/)**

---

**Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services**

---

**U.S. Corn Production Up Fractionally from August Forecast**  
**U.S. Soybean Production Down 1 Percent**  
**U.S. Cotton Production Up 4 Percent**

U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, up fractionally from last month and 8 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 149.4 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from August and 7.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre.

**Soybean** production in the U.S. is forecast at 2.84 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the August forecast but 17 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the second highest production on record. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 38.5 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from August.

All U.S. **cotton** production is forecast at 20.9 million 480-pound bales, up 4 percent from last month and 14 percent above last year's 18.3 million bales. Yield is expected to average 758 pounds per acre, up 31 pounds from last month and 28 pounds from 2003. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. Compared with August, production increased in Arizona, Arkansas, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Texas, offsetting declines in Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia. Harvested area, at 13.2 million acres, is down 1 percent from August but up 10 percent from 2003. Conditions improved in Arkansas, California, and Texas, leading to higher yield expectations than last month.

U.S. **peanut** production is forecast at 4.44 billion pounds, up 3 percent from last month and up 7 percent from 2003. Planted acres, at 1.43 million, are up 3 percent from the June estimate and up 6 percent from 2003. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.39 million acres, up 3 percent from August and up 6 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,188 pounds per acre, down 10 pounds from August but up 29 pounds from 2003.

**Flue-cured tobacco** production in the U.S. is expected to total 512 million pounds, down 1 percent since last month but 12 percent higher than the 2003 crop. Growers plan to harvest 231,000 acres in 2004, down 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,215 pounds per acre, 23 pounds below the August forecast but up 258 pounds from the previous year. Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina have experienced heavy rains that reduced yield prospects.

---