



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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MAY CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- On farm hay stocks, as of May 1, 2005, totaled 212,000 tons. This is 21,000 tons, or 11 percent more than what was on hand last year at this time, and 117,000 tons above May 1 stocks on hand in 2003. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2004 - May 1, 2005, was 818,000 tons, 7 percent more than the 2003 crop disappearance of 766,000 tons for the same period.

Final 2004 burley tobacco production totaled 1.69 million pounds, up 130,000 pounds or 8 percent from 2003. Yield per acre averaged 1,300 pounds, unchanged from 2003. Area harvested in 2004 totaled 1,300 acres, a 100 acre increase from the previous year. The 2004 season average price for tobacco was \$1.970 per pound, down slightly from the 2003 price of \$1.978. The value of production totaled \$3.33 million, up 8 percent from the 2003 value of \$3.09 million.

UNITED STATES -- Winter wheat production, as of May 1, is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 2004. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.4 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season.

Stocks of all hay on farms totaled 27.7 million tons on May 1, 2005, up 7 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2004 - May 1, 2005, totaled 86.6 million tons, 2 percent greater than the disappearance of 85.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Twenty-six of the 48 reporting States had higher hay stocks than a year ago. Many of the States reporting an increase in stocks were located in the northern Great Plains and the central Corn Belt. Stocks declined in the western and southeastern States.

Total U.S. tobacco production for 2004 is revised down less than 1 percent from the January preliminary estimate. Harvested acreage is down less than 1 percent, while the average yield decreased 4 pounds per acre. Total production, at 879 million pounds, is up 10 percent from 2003. Growers harvested 408,040 acres in 2004, down 1 percent from the previous year and the lowest since 1874. Burley production - which accounted for 98 percent of all light air-cured tobacco, is revised down 2 percent from the January preliminary estimate to 292 million pounds. This is 4 percent above 2003 when 282 million pounds were produced. Producers of burley tobacco harvested 153,150 acres in 2004, up 1 percent from the previous year. Yields averaged 1,908 pounds per acre, 58 pounds greater than 2003. Kentucky, the leading producer of burley tobacco, produced 207 million pounds, 71 percent of all burley grown in the United States.

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