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MAY CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- On farm hay stocks, as of May 1, 2004, totaled 191,000 tons. This is 96,000 tons, or 101 percent more than what was on hand last year at this time, but 14,000 tons below May 1 stocks on hand in 2002. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2003 - May 1, 2004, was 766,000 tons, 9 percent less than the 2002 crop disappearance of 839,000 tons for the same period.

Final 2003 burley tobacco production totaled 1.56 million pounds, down 325,000 pounds or 17 percent from 2002. Yield per acre averaged 1,300 pounds, down 150 pounds or 10 percent from 2002. Area harvested in 2003 totaled 1,200 acres, a 100 acre drop from the previous year. The 2003 season average price for tobacco was \$1.978 per pound, up slightly from the 2002 price of \$1.967. The value of production totaled \$3.09 million, down 17 percent from the 2002 value of \$3.71 million.

UNITED STATES -- Winter wheat production, as of May 1, is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2003. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, down 4 percent from last season.

Stocks of all hay on farms totaled 25.9 million tons on May 1, 2004, up 17 percent from the previous year. This increase was mainly the result of a higher hay production in 2003. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2003 - May 1, 2004, totaled 84.9 million tons, 5 percent greater than the disappearance of 81.0 million tons for the same period a year earlier. Disappearance was up from the previous year despite the mild winter in the Corn Belt and Rocky Mountains.

Thirty-three of the 48 reporting States had higher hay stocks than a year ago. Most of the States reporting an increase in stocks were located in the eastern and central Corn Belt, Southeast, central Great Plains, central Rocky Mountains, and along the middle Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. Compared to May 2003, stocks more than doubled in the Ohio Valley due to an increase in production and mild winter weather.

Total U.S. tobacco production for 2003 is revised down 3 percent. Harvested acreage is down 1 percent, while the average yield decreased 45 pounds per acre. Total production, at 803 million pounds in 2003, is down 8 percent from 2002 and at the lowest level since 1897. Growers harvested 411,150 acres in 2003, down 4 percent from the previous year and the lowest harvested acreage since 1874. Final yields averaged 1,952 pounds per acre, down 87 pounds from 2002. Burley production - which accounted for 99 percent of all light air-cured tobacco, is revised down 6 percent from the January preliminary estimate to 282 million pounds. This is 4 percent less than 2002 when 294 million pounds were produced. Producers of burley tobacco harvested 152,300 acres in 2003, down 3 percent from the previous year. Yields averaged 1,850 pounds per acre, 11 pounds less than 2002. Kentucky, the leading producer of burley tobacco, produced 198 million pounds, 70 percent of all burley grown in the United States.