

CROPS

GENERAL

Growing conditions favored Corn as grain yields were up from normal yields and up 10 bushels from 2002. Although wet weather in the early growing season hindered early hay harvesting, hay yields were still about normal. However, the early season wet conditions did affect the wheat crop as the yields were well below normal. Tobacco transplanting was also behind for most of the early season. Tobacco yields ended up slightly below normal.

ALL FORAGE

Total acres for all forage totaled 558,000, down 6 percent from 2002. All forage dry equivalent yield averaged 2.05 tons per acre, up 0.16 tons from the previous year. Production was 1,142,000 tons, up 2 percent.

ALL HAY

All hay harvested area in 2003 totaled 545,000 acres, down 25,000 from 2002. The average yield of 1.95 tons per acre was up slightly from 1.86 tons the previous year. Production totaled 1.063 million tons, up from 1.061 million tons in 2002.

ALFALFA & ALFALFA MIXTURES

Alfalfa hay area harvested totaled 45,000 acres in 2003, down 5,000 acres from 2002. Yields in 2003 averaged 2.51 tons per acre, unchanged from 2002. Production totaled 113,000 tons, down 12,000 tons from 2002. New seedings of alfalfa in 2003 were estimated at 5,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from 2002 seedings.

OTHER HAY

All other hay area harvested totaled 500,000 acres in 2003, down 20,000 acres from 2002. Yields averaged 1.9 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from 2002. Production totaled 950,000 tons, up 1 percent from the previous year.

CORN

Area planted to corn for all purposes in 2003 totaled 48,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from the previous year. Harvested area for grain totaled 27,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from 2002. The average yield of 115.0 bushels per acre was up 10 bushels from the previous year's yield. Production was 3.11 million bushels, down 1 percent from 2002. Corn for silage area harvested was 19,000 acres in 2003, unchanged from 2002. Yields averaged 15.5 tons per acre which was down 1.0 ton from the previous year's yield. Silage production was estimated at 295,000 tons, down 6 percent from 2002.

SOYBEANS

Area planted to soybeans totaled 16,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from 2002. Area harvested for beans totaled 15,000 acres, also down 2,000 acres from 2002. The yield for soybeans in 2003 averaged 41.0 bushels per acre, up 4 bushels from 2002. Production was estimated at 615,000 bushels, down 2 percent from 2002.

WHEAT

Wheat planted acres totaled 12,000 in 2003, unchanged from 2002. Area harvested for grain totaled 7,000 acres, unchanged from the previous year. The average yield for 2003 was estimated to be 41.0 bushels per acre. This was down 7 bushels from the previous year. Production was estimated at 287,000 bushels, down 15 percent from 2002.

TOBACCO

Burley tobacco area harvested totaled 1,200 acres in 2003, down 100 acres from the previous year. Yields averaged 1,300 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from 2002. Production for burley tobacco totaled 1.56 million pounds in 2003, down 20 percent from last year.