

# 2000 Field Crops Summary

## GENERAL

West Virginia producers went from a drought in 1999 to a record-breaking season for yields for many of the major crops in 2000. Although rain was excessive at times, farmers still managed to have a productive season.

## ALL FORAGE

Total acres for all forage were estimated at 625,000 acres. All forage yields average 2.27 tons per acre and production totaled 1.42 million tons. This is the first year for forage estimates.

Forage production includes all forms of harvested hay on a dry equivalent basis. Several assumptions are made to convert haylage and greenchop to a dry equivalent. Haylage production is based on haylage weight at harvest and then converted to dry equivalent production. Factors used were: one ton of dry, baled hay = 0.87 ton dry matter; one ton of haylage = 0.45 ton dry matter; one ton of greenchop = 0.25 ton dry matter; greenchop = 10% of haylage production.

## ALL HAY

All hay harvested area in 2000 totaled 600,000 acres, up 20,000 from 1999. The average yield of 2.19 tons per acre set a new record high. Production totaled 1.315 million tons, up 66 percent from 1999, and also is a new record.

## ALFALFA AND ALFALFA MIXTURES

Alfalfa hay area harvested totaled 50,000 acres in 2000, unchanged from 1999. Yields in 2000 averaged 3.2 tons per acre, tying the record set in 1994. Production totaled 160,000 tons, up 52 percent from 1999. New seedings of alfalfa in 2000 were estimated at 7,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 1999 seedings.

## ALL OTHER HAY

All other hay area harvested totaled 550,000 acres in 2000, for a new record high. Yields averaged 2.1 tons per acre and set a new record. Production totaled 1.155 million tons, also a new state record.

## CORN

Area planted to corn for all purposes in 2000 totaled 55,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from the previous year. Harvested area for grain totaled 35,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from 1999. The average yield of 130.0 bushels per acre was up 65.0 bushels from 1999 and set a new state record. Production was 4.55 million bushels, up 250 percent from 1999. Corn for silage area harvested was 19,000 acres in 2000, down 16,000 acres from 1999. Yields averaged 19.0 tons per acre and set a new record high. Silage production was estimated at 361,000 tons, up 21 percent from 1999.

## OATS

Estimates for oats were discontinued in 2000.

## SOYBEANS

Area planted to soybeans totaled 16,000 acres. Area harvested for beans totaled 15,000 acres. The yield for soybeans in 2000 averaged 47.0 bushels per acre. Production was estimated at 705,000 bushels. This is the first year for soybean estimates in West Virginia.

## WINTER WHEAT

Wheat planted acres totaled 13,000 in 2000, up 2,000 acres from 1999. Area harvested for grain totaled 9,000 acres, also up 2,000 acres from the record low harvested in 1999. The average yield for 2000 set a new record high at 61.0 bushels per acre. This was up 4.0 bushels from the previous record high set in 1999. Production was estimated at 549,000 bushels, up 38 percent from 1999.

## TOBACCO

Burley tobacco area harvested totaled 1,300 acres in 2000, down 300 acres from the previous year. Yields averaged 1,200 pounds per acre, down 150 pounds from last year. Production for burley tobacco totaled 1.56 million pounds in 2000, down 28 percent from the previous year.

