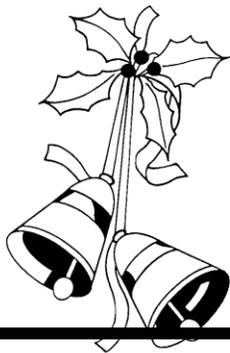


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*Featuring:*

Agricultural Prices • County Rankings • Crop Production • Farm Labor • Imports/Exports • Milk Production



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
*from the staff of*  
**USDA, NASS, Kentucky Field Office**

**FY 2016 Exports Forecast at \$131.5 Billion; Imports at Record \$122.0 Billion**

Fiscal 2016 agricultural exports are forecast at \$131.5 billion, down \$7.0 billion from the August forecast and \$8.2 billion below final fiscal 2015 exports. Most of the decline is accounted for by lower prices, strong competition, and diminishing Chinese demand. Grain and feed exports are forecast down \$3.8 billion to \$28.6 billion, with coarse grain and feeds and fodders exports down a collective \$2.3 billion, as decreasing trade prospects with China sharply reduce sorghum and distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS) exports. Wheat exports are forecast down \$1.2 billion to \$5.5 billion, a result of lower volume as ample exporter supplies and a strong dollar limit competitiveness outside of traditional U.S. markets. Oilseed exports are forecast at \$26.3 billion, down \$400 million in response to lower soybean and product prices. Cotton exports are forecast down \$500 million as a result of lower prices, which are under pressure from large stocks in China. The forecast for livestock, poultry, and dairy is lowered \$2.2 billion largely due to depressed prices for beef and pork spurred by increased supplies. Horticultural exports are unchanged at a record \$36.5 billion.

U.S. agricultural imports are forecast at a record \$122.0 billion, down \$0.5 billion from August, but \$8.0 billion higher than in fiscal 2015. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus is forecast at \$9.5 billion, down \$25.7 billion in fiscal 2015 and the lowest level since fiscal 2006.

Source: USDA ERS, *Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade* report, December 1, 2015.

U.S. Agricultural Trade, Fiscal Years, 2010 - 2016 (Year ending September 30)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Fiscal Year 2016	
							Aug <sup>1</sup>	Nov <sup>1</sup>
Exports	<i>Billion Dollars</i> 108.5	<i>Billion Dollars</i> 137.5	<i>Billion Dollars</i> 135.9	<i>Billion Dollars</i> 141.1	<i>Billion Dollars</i> 152.3	<i>Billion Dollars</i> 139.7	<i>Billion Dollars</i> 138.5	<i>Billion Dollars</i> 131.5
Imports	79.0	94.5	103.4	103.9	109.2	114.0	122.5	122.0
Balance	29.5	43.0	32.5	37.2	43.1	25.7	16.0	9.5

Reflects forecasts in the November 10, 2015 *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report.

Source: Compiled by USDA using data from U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

<sup>1</sup> Forecast

County Rankings: Kentucky's Leading  
Agricultural Counties

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2014 Crop Production:										
Corn, Grain	Union	Henderson	Daviess	Christian	Graves	McLean	Logan	Hickman	Webster	Todd
Soybeans	Henderson	Daviess	Graves	Christian	Union	McLean	Fulton	Logan	Todd	Hickman
Winter Wheat	Christian	Logan	Todd	Simpson	Graves	Caldwell	Hickman	Calloway	Warren	Trigg
Tobacco										
Burley	Breckin.	Monroe	Shelby	Harrison	Christian	Green	Daviess	Bourbon	Henry	Mason
Dark Fire	Calloway	Christian	Graves	Trigg	Todd	Logan	Caldwell	---	---	---
Dark Air	Logan	Todd	Daviess	Christian	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hay										
Alfalfa <sup>1</sup>	Mason	Owen	Meade	Metcalfe	Bracken	Fayette	Grant	Boyle	Woodford	Jessamine Oldham
All Other	Barren	Pulaski	Grayson	Madison	Warren	Adair	Breckin.	Casey	Monroe	Montgom.
Jan 1, 2015 Livestock										
Cattle <sup>2</sup>	Barren	Madison	Pulaski	Lincoln	Monroe	Bourbon Fleming	Mercer	Nelson	Marion	Warren
Beef Cows <sup>3</sup>	Barren	Pulaski	Madison	Monroe Warren	Bourbon	Lincoln	Breckin. Marion	Adair	Allen Washing.	Grayson
Milk Cows <sup>4</sup>	Barren	Adair	Logan	Todd	Christian	Marion Monroe Warren	Lincoln	Metcalfe	Nelson	Taylor
2012 Census										
Farms	Barren	Pulaski	Warren	Shelby	Graves	Grayson	Hart	Hardin	Nelson	Breckin.
Cropland	Christian	Graves	Logan	Daviess	Union	Henderson	Warren	Calloway	Barren	Todd

Rankings based on published counties only. <sup>1</sup>Jessamine and Oldham tied for 10th. Lincoln and Madison tied for 6th. <sup>2</sup>Bourbon and Fleming tied for 6th. <sup>3</sup>Monroe and Warren tied for 4th, Breckinridge and Marion tied for 7th, Allen and Washington tied for 9th. <sup>4</sup>Marion, Monroe and Warren tied for 6th.

## FARM LABOR

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 841,000 for the reference week of October 11-17, 2015, up 8 percent from the October 2014 reference week. There were 872,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2015, up 4 percent from the July 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.82 per hour during the October 2015 reference week, up 6 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$12.11 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$12.02, up 6 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.09 per hour, was up 5 percent from October 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.7 hours during the October 2015 reference week, compared with 41.3 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.47 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.73 per hour, up 3 percent. Livestock workers earned \$11.80 per hour, up 5 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.75 per hour, was up 4 percent from July 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.0 hours during the July 2015 reference week, compared with 40.5 hours a year earlier.

The number of hired works on farms in the **3-State Region including Kentucky**, Tennessee, and West Virginia totaled 30,000 during the week of July 12-18, 2015. Hired workers worked an average 37.2 hours during the survey week. The average wage rate for all hired workers was \$11.57 per hour. Field workers averaged \$10.97 per hour and livestock workers averaged \$10.72 per hour. The number of hired works on farms totaled 31,000 during the week of October 11-17, 2015. Hired workers worked an average 40.4 hours during the survey week. The average wage rate for all hired workers was \$11.91 per hour. Field workers averaged \$11.34 per hour and livestock workers averaged \$10.96 per hour.

### CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, NOVEMBER KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES

Crops	Area Planted <sup>1</sup>		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015 <sup>2</sup>	2014	2015 <sup>1</sup>		2014	2015 <sup>1</sup>
						Oct 1	Nov 1 <sup>2</sup>		
<b>KENTUCKY</b>									
	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(000 bu)	(000 bu)
Corn <sup>3</sup>	1,520	1,400	1,430	1,300	158.0	175.0	175.0	225,940	227,500
Soybeans <sup>3</sup>	1,760	1,840	1,750	1,820	47.5	49.0	52.0	83,125	94,640
Wheat, Winter <sup>34</sup>	630	560	510	440	71.0	--	--	36,210	32,120
	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(000 tons)	(000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	2,265	2,275	2.10	--	--	4,761	5,215
Alfalfa	--	--	165	175	3.40	3.50	--	561	613
Other, All	--	--	2,100	2,100	2.00	2.40	--	4,200	5,040
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(000 pounds)	(000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	91,700	74,900	2,337	2,165	--	214,280	162,160
Burley	--	--	76,000	60,000	2,150	1,900	--	163,400	114,000
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	10,700	9,900	3,400	3,400	--	36,380	33,660
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	5,000	5,000	2,900	2,900	--	14,500	14,500
<b>UNITED STATES</b>									
	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(000 bu)	(000 bu)
Corn <sup>3</sup>	90,597	88,381	83,136	80,664	171.0	168.0	169.3	14,215,532	13,653,507
Soybeans <sup>3</sup>	83,276	83,205	82,591	82,429	47.5	47.2	48.3	3,927,090	3,981,337
Wheat, Winter <sup>34</sup>	42,409	39,461	32,299	32,257	42.6	--	--	1,377,216	1,370,188
	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(000 tons)	(000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	57,092	56,539	2.45	2.52	--	139,798	142,401
Alfalfa	--	--	18,445	18,337	3.33	3.45	--	61,446	63,214
Other, All	--	--	38,647	38,202	2.03	2.07	--	78,352	79,187
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(000 pounds)	(000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	378,360	328,950	2,316	2,148	--	876,415	706,602
Burley	--	--	101,500	81,000	2,100	1,876	--	213,160	151,985
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	18,630	17,750	3,175	3,209	--	59,146	56,960
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,150	6,200	2,844	2,842	--	17,490	17,620

<sup>1</sup> Commodities with estimates not available are (denoted by "--"). <sup>2</sup> Forecasted. <sup>3</sup> Area harvested represents grain. <sup>4</sup> Includes area planted in preceding fall.

**Livestock Average Prices Received <sup>1 2</sup>**

Commodity	United States		
	Oct 2014	Sep 2015	Oct 2015
	<i>\$/Cwt.</i>	<i>\$/Cwt.</i>	<i>\$/Cwt.</i>
All Hogs	77.00	54.50	55.50
Barrows & Gilts	77.40	54.90	55.40
Sows	66.40	45.20	57.40
All Beef Cattle <sup>3</sup>	161.00	139.00	128.00
Steers & Heifers <sup>4</sup>	163.00	140.00	129.00
Cows	116.00	104.00	89.50
Calves <sup>5</sup>	307.00	241.00	234.00

<sup>1</sup> U.S. prices based on data provided by USDA AMS. <sup>2</sup> Only full month prices published starting in January 2015. <sup>3</sup> "Steers & Heifers" and "Cows" combined. <sup>4</sup> 500 lbs. and over. <sup>5</sup> Under 500 lbs.

**Crop Average Prices Received <sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Kentucky		U.S.	
	Oct 2014	Oct 2015	Oct 2014	Oct 2015
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
All Corn (Bu) <sup>23</sup>	3.52	3.78	3.57	3.67
Soybeans (Bu) <sup>2</sup>	10.40	9.32	9.97	8.81
Winter Wheat (Bu) <sup>2</sup>	(4)	(4)	5.65	4.79
Hay, Alfalfa (Ton)	190.00	215.00	193.00	156.00
Hay, Other (Ton)	90.00	110.00	128.00	124.00

<sup>1</sup> Only full month prices published starting in January 2015. <sup>2</sup> Includes contract sales paid during month. <sup>3</sup> Includes yellow and white corn. <sup>4</sup> Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately.

**MILK PRODUCTION**

**Milk production** in the 23 major States during October totaled 16.0 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from October 2014. September revised production, at 15.6 billion pounds, was up 0.5 percent from September 2014. The September revision represented an increase of 12 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,857 pounds for October, 7 pounds below October 2014. This is the second highest production per cow for the month of October since the 23 State series began in 2003.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.63 million head, 38,000 head more than October 2014, but 1,000 head less than September 2015.

**Internet Access:** Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>