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KENTUCKY 2015 WHEAT FORECAST, 2014 FINAL BURLEY ESTIMATE

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 32.9 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2015 according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2015 would be down 9 percent from the previous year. Farmers seeded 620,000 acres last fall with 470,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Based on crop conditions as of May 1 and assuming a normal growing season, farmers expect a yield of 70.0 bushel per acre, down 1.0 bushels from 2014. Acres for other uses totaled 150,000 acres and will be used as cover crop for tobacco or cut as silage or hay.

As of May 11, winter wheat was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 61 percent good and 19 percent excellent. At this same date, crop progress was at 65 percent headed compared to 33 percent last year and on pace with the five year average.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.47 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2014. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 33.8 million acres, up 5 percent from last year. As of May 1, the U.S. yield was forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushels from last year.

The final production estimate of **Kentucky burley tobacco** for 2014 was 163 million pounds, up 10 percent from the 148 million pounds produced in 2013. Average yield was 2,150 pounds per acre, up 150 pounds from the 2013 crop. Acreage harvested was 76,000 acres, up 3 percent from 2013. Average price per pound was estimated at \$1.94 per pound, down 12 cents from the previous year.

Burley production for the **burley producing States** totaled 213 million pounds, up 11 percent from 2013. Six states make up the burley producing states. Kentucky, the leading producer of burley tobacco, produced 77 percent of all burley grown in the United States.

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