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## **Kentucky Winter Wheat Production Forecast down 8 percent from 2015**

**Kentucky** farmers expect to harvest 29.5 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2016 according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2016 would be down 8 percent from the previous year. The forecast was based on crop conditions as of June 1 and decreased 3 percent from the May forecast. Growers expect a yield of 72.0 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushel from 2015 and down 2.0 bushels from May. Farmers seeded 550,000 acres last fall with 410,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Acres for other uses totaled 140,000 acres and will be used as cover crop for tobacco or cut as silage or hay.

Overall in Kentucky, the month of May experienced above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Severe storms in some areas resulted in reports of damage due to hail, wind and flooding. There have been reports of lodging as well as stripe rust. However, crop conditions continued to be mostly good to excellent and producers are optimistic about yield potential. Conditions as of May 29 were rated 1% very poor, 3% poor, 13% fair, 62% good, and 21% excellent. Eighty-three percent of wheat was rated as good to excellent, down compared to 88 percent on May 1.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.51 billion bushels, up 6 percent from the May 1 forecast and up 10 percent from 2015. Based on June 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 50.5 bushels per acre, up 2.7 bushels from last month and up 8 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record for the United States. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 29.8 million acres, down 8 percent from last year.

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