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Released: October 12, 2016

Forecasts Lowered for Kentucky Corn and Soybeans

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its crop production report today from the October Agricultural Survey conducted at the beginning of the month. This month’s report shows lower forecasts for corn and soybeans than in September.

“Corn, soybean and tobacco yields are disappointing compared with earlier projections” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Yields from harvested fields are falling short of what looked to be some very good crops.”

Corn production in **Kentucky** is forecast at 228 million bushels, down 6 percent from the September forecast and up 1 percent from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 162 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels from last month and down 10 bushels from the 2015 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.41 million acres, up 100,000 acres from 2015. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 15.1 billion bushels, down slightly from the September forecast and up 11 percent from 2015. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 173.4 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushels from last month and up 5.0 bushels from 2015. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 86.8 million acres, up slightly from the September forecast and up 8 percent from 2015.

Soybean production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 89.5 million bushels, down 2 percent from the September forecast and up 1 percent from 2015. Yield was estimated at 50 bushels per acre, down 1 bushels from last month and up 1.0 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.79 million acres, down 20,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.27 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the September forecast and up 9 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 51.4 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushels from last month and up 3.4 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 83.0 million acres, up slightly from the September forecast and up 2 percent from 2015.

Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast at 110 million pounds, down 1 percent from the September forecast and up 6 percent from 2015. Yield was projected at 1,750 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from last month and down 50 pounds from the 2015 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 63,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year’s crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 143 million pounds, down 1 percent from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 81,900 acres, up 4 percent from 2015. Yields were expected to average 1,747 pounds per acre, down 87 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 22.8 million pounds, down 8 percent from the September forecast and down 28 percent from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is

forecast at 8.64 million pounds, down 16 percent from the September forecast and down 37 percent from last year.

“I hate it for our tobacco producers,” Knopf continued. “They fought the effects of higher than normal rainfall all season and ended up with the lightest burley yield since 1983. On a brighter note, soybean production is still on track to be a record high.”

Alfalfa hay production by **Kentucky** farmers is forecast at 544,000 tons, down 14 percent the 2015 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 5.06 million tons, unchanged from last year.

**CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, October 1
KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES**

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2015	2016	2015	2016 ²	2015	2016		2015	2016
						Sep 1 ¹	Oct 1 ²		
KENTUCKY									
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn ³	1,400	1,500	1,310	1,410	172.0	172.0	162.0	225,320	228,420
Soybeans ³	1,840	1,800	1,810	1,790	49.0	51.0	50.0	88,690	89,500
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	560	510	440	400	73.0	80.0	--	32,120	32,000
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>
Hay:									
All	--	--	2,370	2,360	2.40	--	2.37	5,689	5,604
Alfalfa	--	--	170	160	3.70	--	3.40	629	544
Other, All	--	--	2,200	2,200	2.30	--	2.30	5,060	5,060
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	72,900	77,300	2,055	1,968	1,833	149,830	141,690
Burley	--	--	58,000	63,000	1,800	1,850	1,750	104,400	110,250
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	9,900	9,500	3,200	2,600	2,400	31,680	22,800
Dark Air-Cured	--	--	5,000	4,800	2,750	2,200	1,800	13,750	8,640
UNITED STATES									
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn ³	87,999	94,490	80,749	86,836	168.4	174.4	173.4	13,601,198	15,057,404
Soybeans ³	82,650	83,698	81,732	83,047	48.0	50.6	51.4	3,926,339	4,268,884
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	39,681	36,137	32,346	30,222	42.5	55.3	--	1,374,690	1,671,532
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>
Hay:									
All	--	--	54,437	56,127	2.47	--	2.52	134,388	141,573
Alfalfa	--	--	17,778	18,065	3.32	--	3.48	58,974	62,817
Other, All	--	--	36,659	38,062	2.06	--	2.07	75,414	78,756
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	328,650	321,870	2,178	2,159	2,063	715,946	664,114
Burley	--	--	78,900	81,900	1,834	1,848	1,747	144,675	143,040
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	17,850	16,770	3,144	2,680	2,501	56,125	41,944
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,200	6,000	2,750	2,261	1,900	17,050	11,400

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