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Kentucky Corn Yield May Set a Record

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the October Crop Production report today, showing a potential record yield forecasts for corn.

“Based on producer reports, Kentucky corn are forecast at 180 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the record high set last year,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “The soybean yield forecast remained at 57 bushels per acre this month, which would also be a record high. Unfortunately, heavy rains in September took a toll on burley tobacco, dropping the yield 300 pounds per acre.”

Corn production in **Kentucky** is forecast at 223 million bushels, up 4 percent from the September forecast and up 3 percent from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 180 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from last month and up 2 bushels from the 2017 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.24 million acres, up 20,000 acres from 2017. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 14.8 billion bushels, down slightly from the September forecast and up 1 percent from 2017. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 180.7 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushels from last month and up 4.1 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, down slightly from the September forecast and down 1 percent from 2017.

Soybean production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 113 million bushels, down 5 percent from the September forecast and up 10 percent from 2017. Yield was estimated at 57 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and up 4.0 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.99 million acres, up 50,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.69 billion bushels, down slightly from the September forecast and up 6 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 53.1 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels from last month and up 3.8 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 88.3 million acres, down 1 percent from the September forecast and down 1 percent from 2017.

Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast at 90.1 million pounds, down 15 percent from the September forecast and down 30 percent from 2017. Yield was projected at 1,700 pounds per acre, down 300 pounds from last month and down 350 pounds from the 2017 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 53,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year’s crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 113 million pounds, down 30 percent from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 64,800 acres, down 20 percent from 2017. Yields were expected to average 1,743 pounds per acre, down 234 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 35.2 million pounds, unchanged from the September forecast and down 7 percent from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 19.4 million pounds, unchanged from the September forecast and up 20 percent from last year.

Alfalfa hay production by **Kentucky** farmers is forecast at 518,000 tons, down 1 percent the 2017 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 5.25 million tons, up 9 percent from last year.

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

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018 ²	2017	2018		2017	2018
						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	1,320	1,340	1,220	1,240	178.0	177.0	180.0	217,160	223,200
Soybeans ³	1,950	2,000	1,940	1,990	53.0	57.0	57.0	102,820	113,430
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	480	450	310	300	77.0	66.0	--	23,870	19,800
	<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	--	--	2,150	2,240	2.48	--	2.58	5,325	5,768
Alfalfa	--	--	150	140	3.50	--	3.70	525	518
Other, All	--	--	2,000	2,100	2.40	--	2.50	4,800	5,250
	<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	--	--	80,500	71,200	2,277	2,256	2,033	183,300	144,740
Burley	--	--	63,000	53,000	2,050	2,000	1,700	129,150	90,100
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	11,500	11,000	3,300	3,200	3,200	37,950	35,200
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,000	7,200	2,700	2,700	2,700	16,200	19,440
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	90,167	89,140	82,703	81,767	176.6	181.3	180.7	14,604,067	14,777,826
Soybeans ³	90,142	89,145	89,522	88,348	49.3	52.8	53.1	4,410,673	4,689,628
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	32,696	32,535	25,291	24,742	50.2	47.9	--	1,269,437	1,183,939
	<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	--	--	53,784	55,068	2.44	--	2.44	131,455	134,384
Alfalfa	--	--	16,563	17,351	3.32	--	3.43	55,068	59,527
Other, All	--	--	37,221	37,717	2.05	--	1.98	76,387	74,857
	<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	--	--	321,470	301,980	2,209	2,088	1,814	710,161	547,812
Burley	--	--	81,500	64,800	1,977	1,996	1,743	161,140	112,960
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	19,270	18,880	3,089	3,060	3,060	59,531	57,772
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	7,600	10,000	2,658	2,616	2,644	20,200	26,440

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