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Released: August 12, 2019

Kentucky Corn Production May Set a Record

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the August Crop Production report today, showing a potential record production forecast for corn, increased burley tobacco production and reduced soybean production.

“Based on producer reports, 2019 corn production may reach a record high in Kentucky, surpassing the 243 million bushels grown in 2013,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Production is forecast to increase 26 percent from a year ago, most of that increase resulting from an expected 22 percent rise in harvested acres. This first forecast also suggests that there is potential for a record high yield.”

Corn production in **Kentucky** is forecast at 272 million bushels, up 26 percent from the previous crop. Yield is estimated at 181 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from the 2018 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.50 million acres, up 270,000 acres from 2018. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 13.9 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2018. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 169.5 bushels per acre, down 6.9 bushels from 2018. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 82.0 million acres, up slightly from 2018.

Soybean production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 89.6 million bushels, a decrease of 13 percent from 2018. Yield is estimated at 53.0 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.69 million acres, down 300,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 3.68 billion bushels, down 19 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 48.5 bushels per acre, down 3.1 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 75.9 million acres, down 14 percent from 2018.

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 24.3 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2019. The expected crop for 2019 would be up 23 percent from the previous year. Growers expect a yield of 76.0 bushels per acre, up 10.0 bushel from 2018 and down 1.0 bushels from July. Farmers expect to harvest 320,000 acres for grain. Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.33 billion bushels, up 12 percent from 2018. The United States yield is forecast at 53.2 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from last month and up 5.3 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 24.9 million acres, up 1 percent from last year.

Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast at 90.0 million pounds, up 13 percent from 2018. Yield is projected at 2,000 pounds per acre, up 400 pounds from the 2018 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 45,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year's crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at

106 million pounds, up 5 percent from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 52,600 acres, down 14 percent from 2018. Yields were expected to average 2,010 pounds per acre, up 365 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 29.8 million pounds, down 15 percent from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 20.2 million pounds, up 5 percent from last year.

Production of **hay** by **Kentucky** farmers is forecast to be up from last year due to higher yields. **Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 391,000 tons, 13 percent below the 2018 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 5.00 million tons, up 8 percent from last year.

Data for this report is made possible by producers across the Commonwealth. ““I appreciate their efforts to help inform their fellow growers of supply estimates,” Knopf said.

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

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2018	2019	2018	2019 ²	2018	2019		2018	2019
						Jul 1 ¹	Aug 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	1,340	1,600	1,230	1,500	175.0	--	181.0	215,250	271,500
Soybeans ³	2,000	1,700	1,990	1,690	52.0	--	53.0	103,480	89,570
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	450	460	300	320	66.0	77.0	76.0	19,800	24,320
	<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	--	--	1,895	2,115	2.68	--	2.55	5,088	5,391
Alfalfa	--	--	145	115	3.10	--	3.40	450	391
Other, All	--	--	1,750	2,000	2.65	--	2.50	4,638	5,000
	<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	--	--	68,100	61,500	1,973	--	2,275	134,370	139,920
Burley	--	--	50,000	45,000	1,600	--	2,000	80,000	90,000
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	11,000	9,300	3,200	--	3,200	35,200	29,760
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	7,100	7,200	2,700	--	2,800	19,170	20,160
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	89,129	90,005	81,740	82,017	176.4	--	169.5	14,420,101	13,900,651
Soybeans ³	89,196	76,700	88,110	75,866	51.6	--	48.5	4,543,883	3,680,217
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	32,535	31,778	24,742	24,924	47.9	51.8	53.2	1,183,939	1,326,223
	<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	--	--	52,839	52,773	2.34	--	2.48	123,600	131,065
Alfalfa	--	--	16,608	16,828	3.17	--	3.29	52,634	55,393
Other, All	--	--	36,231	35,945	1.96	--	2.11	70,966	75,672
	<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	--	--	291,430	238,920	1,830	--	2,110	533,241	504,162
Burley	--	--	61,050	52,600	1,645	--	2,010	100,435	105,730
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	18,880	16,020	3,121	--	2,978	58,926	47,712
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	9,900	10,600	2,686	--	2,704	26,590	28,660

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