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Released: March 31, 2020

Kentucky Crop Acreage Intentions Follow Rotation Pattern

Louisville, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the Prospective Plantings report today, showing a decrease in corn and tobacco acres and an increase in soybean acreage in Kentucky.

“Based on the producer survey at the beginning of March, farmers planned to follow a typical crop rotation in 2020,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “A typical crop rotation is corn one year and soybeans the next, and this report shows corn moving down and soybean acreage up. Planting is just getting underway in the state and many factors can change planting decisions.” In June, growers will again be surveyed to measure actual planted acres.

Farmers in Kentucky intend to plant 1.50 million acres of corn, 50,000 lower than 2019. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 97.0 million acres for all purposes in 2020, up 8 percent from last year and 9 percent higher than 2018.

Soybean acreage in Kentucky was expected to total 1.80 million acres, up 100,000 acres from the previous year. U.S. soybean planted area for 2020 is estimated at 83.5 million acres, up 10 percent from last year.

Burley tobacco growers in Kentucky intend to set 37,000 acres for harvest, down 4,000 acres from 2019. For the burley producing states, growers intend to set 44,500 acres, 8 percent below last year.

Producers intend to set 8,000 acres of dark-fired tobacco in Kentucky, down 1,500 acres from the previous year. Acreage set to dark-air tobacco was estimated at 6,400 acres, down 500 acres from 2019.

Winter wheat seeded by Kentucky farmers in the fall of 2019 totaled 540,000 acres, up 80,000 acres from previous year. Seeded acreage for the nation was 30.8 million acres, down 1 percent from 2018.

Farmers in the state intend to harvest 1.97 million acres of all hay, up 20,000 from 2019. U.S. farmers intend on harvesting 53.3 million acres of hay in 2020, up 2 percent from last year. The acreage of all hay harvested during a summer depends to a great measure on the moisture received during the growing season and temperatures experienced.