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Kentucky Crop Prospects Look Promising

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its crop production report today from the August Agricultural Yield Survey conducted at the beginning of the month. The report showed corn yields are expected to be up 7 percent from last year, soybeans 17 percent higher and burley tobacco yields down 5 percent.

“Crops are moving toward harvest in very good shape”, said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Condition ratings have been running above average for much of the growing season. On August 1, corn and soybean conditions were 5 to 10 points above the 5-year average.”

Corn production in **Kentucky** is forecast at 259 million bushels, up 6% from the previous crop. Yield is estimated at 181 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from the 2019 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.43 million acres, down 20,000 acres from 2019. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 15.3 billion bushels, up 12 % from 2019. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 181.8 bushels per acre, up 14.4 bushels from 2019. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 84.0 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but up 3% from 2019.

Soybean production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 99.4 million bushels, an increase of 28% from 2019. Yield is estimated at 54.0 bushels per acre, up 8.0 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.84 million acres, up 150,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.42 billion bushels, up 25% from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 53.3 bushels per acre, up 5.9 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 83.0 million acres, unchanged from June but up 11% from 2019.

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 24.0 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2020. The expected crop for 2020 would be down 4% from the previous year. Growers expect a yield of 64.0 bushels per acre, down 12.0 bushel from 2019 and up 1.0 bushels from July. Farmers expect to harvest 375,000 acres for grain. Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.20 billion bushels, down 8% from 2019. The United States yield is forecast at 51.1 bushels per acre, down 0.9 bushels from last month and down 2.5 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 23.4 million acres, down 4% from last year.

Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast at 64.8 million pounds, down 17 % from 2019. Yield is projected at 1,800 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from the 2019 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 36,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year’s crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at

77.4 million pounds, down 17% from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 43,500 acres, down 10 % from 2019. Yields were expected to average 1,779 pounds per acre, down 131 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 23.7 million pounds, down 14 % from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 15.7 million pounds, down 13 % 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 462,000 tons, slightly below the 2019 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 4.50 million tons, up 14% from last year.

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

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2019	2020	2019	2020 ²	2019	2020		2019	2020
						Jul 1 ¹	Aug 1 ²		
KENTUCKY									
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Corn ³	1,550	1,550	1,450	1,430	169.0	--	181.0	245,050	258,830
Soybeans ³	1,700	1,850	1,690	1,840	46.0	--	54.0	77,740	99,360
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	1,945	1,940	2.27	--	2.56	4,424	4,962
Alfalfa	--	--	145	140	3.20	--	3.30	464	462
Other, All	--	--	1,800	1,800	2.20	--	2.50	3,960	4,500
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	57,400	50,300	2,150	--	2,071	123,390	104,180
Burley	--	--	41,000	36,000	1,900	--	1,800	77,900	64,800
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	9,500	7,900	2,900	--	3,000	27,550	23,700
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,900	6,400	2,600	--	2,450	17,940	15,680
UNITED STATES									
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Corn ³	89,700	92,006	81,322	84,023	167.4	--	181.8	13,617,261	15,278,202
Soybeans ³	76,100	83,825	74,951	83,020	47.4	--	53.3	3,552,241	4,424,800
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	52,425	52,381	2.46	--	2.39	128,864	125,250
Alfalfa	--	--	16,743	16,352	3.28	--	3.16	54,875	51,660
Other, All	--	--	35,682	36,029	2.07	--	2.04	73,989	73,590
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	227,120	196,750	2,060	--	1,892	467,956	372,340
Burley	--	--	48,600	43,500	1,910	--	1,779	92,830	77,365
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	16,120	13,450	2,839	--	2,960	45,766	39,810
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	9,900	9,900	2,464	--	2,485	24,390	24,605

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

The next Crop Production report will be released September 11. All reports are available on the NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Kentucky Field Office at (800) 928-5277.