Kentucky Wheat Crop Expected to be Smaller

Louisville, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the June Crop Production report today, forecasting a winter wheat yield of 79.0 bushels per acre, down from the record high yield of 87.0 last year, and one bushel below the May forecast.

“This year’s crop is almost made,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Barring any adverse weather, I think growers will be quite satisfied with their production.” Harvest normally runs from June to early July.

Kentucky farmers expect to harvest 28.8 million bushels of winter wheat. The expected crop for 2022 would be down 5% from the previous year. The forecast was based on crop conditions as of June 1 and decreased 1% from the May forecast. Farmers seeded 540,000 acres last fall with 365,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Acres for other uses totaled 175,000 acres and will be used as cover crop or cut as silage or hay.

Winter wheat production for the Nation was forecast at 1.18 billion bushels, up 1% from the May 1 forecast and down 7% from 2021. Based on June 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 48.2 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels from last month and down 2.0 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 24.5 million acres, down 4% from last year.