



**USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office**  
Herman Ellison, State Statistician  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659  
(804) 771-2493 or 1-800-772-0670  
**Email:** nass-va@nass.usda.gov

**In Cooperation with:**

Virginia Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
Sandra Adams, Commissioner

Released: October 12, 2016

### **Crop Yields Improved from September; Progress Still Behind Five-year Average**

**RICHMOND, Va.** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its crop production report today from the October Agricultural Survey conducted at the beginning of the month.

“The corn crop remained in mostly good to excellent condition during the month of September,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “As of Oct. 2, the Virginia farmers had harvested 63 percent of the corn crop for grain.”

**Corn** production in **Virginia** was forecast at 53.7 million bushels, up 11 percent from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 158 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from the 2015 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 340,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from 2015. The **U.S.** corn production was forecast at 15.1 billion bushels, up 11 percent from 2015. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 173.4 bushels per acre, up 5.0 bushels from 2015. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 86.8 million acres, up slightly from the September forecast and up 8 percent from 2015.

**Soybean** production for **Virginia** is forecast at 23.4 million bushels, increased 9 percent from 2015. Yield was estimated at 39 bushels per acre, up 4.5 bushels from a year ago. **U.S.** soybean production was forecast at 4.27 billion bushels, up 9 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 51.4 bushels per acre, up 3.4 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 83 million acres, up slightly from September but up 2 percent from 2015.

“The double crop soybeans got a boost with the rainfall received during the month of September, and some reports indicated the pods filled out nicely with the moisture,” Ellison said. “As of Oct. 2, soybean setting pods and dropping leaves were both behind 2015 and the five-year average.”

**Virginia cotton** production is projected to be 140,000 bales, down 2 percent from last year. Cotton yields are forecast to average 933 pounds per acre, up 116 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 72,000 acres, down 12,000 acres from 2015. **U.S.** cotton production was forecast at 16 million bales, up 24 percent from 2015. Yields are forecast to average 797 pounds per acre, up 31 pounds from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 9.66 million acres, up 20 percent from the previous year.

“The cotton crop continued to be rated in mostly good condition during the month of September,” Ellison said. “As of Oct. 2, the cotton bolls opening was 19 percentage points behind the five-year average.”

**Peanut** farmers in **Virginia** anticipate harvesting 72.0 million pounds for 2016, up 4 percent from last year. Acres expected to be harvested total 20,000 acres, up 1,000 from last year. Producers expect a yield of 3,600 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds from 2015.

**Virginia flue-cured tobacco** production was forecast at 52.8 million pounds, up 7 percent from 2015. Yield was projected at 2,400 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from the 2015 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 22,000 acres, up 500 acres from last year's crop. **U.S. flue-cured** production was forecast at 460 million pounds, down 5 percent from

last year. Flue-cured growers plan to harvest 214,000 acres, down 3 percent from 2015. Yields were expected to average 2,150 pounds per acre, down 60 pounds from last year.

Production of **Virginia dark fire-cured** tobacco was forecast at 594,000 pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. **Burley** tobacco production was forecast at 2.16 million pounds, down 10 percent from last year.

**Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 248,000 tons, 10 percent above the 2015 level. **Other hay** production was estimated at 2.31 million tons, down 5 percent from last year.

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

Crops	Area Planted <sup>1</sup>		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2015	2016	2015	2016 <sup>2</sup>	2015	2016		2015	2016
						Sep 1 <sup>1</sup>	Oct 1 <sup>2</sup>		
<b>VIRGINIA</b>									
	<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>
Barley <sup>34</sup>	46	33	16	12	75.0	67.0	--	1,200	804
Corn <sup>3</sup>	450	490	300	340	161.0	157.0	158.0	48,300	53,720
Soybeans <sup>3</sup>	630	610	620	600	34.5	38.0	39.0	21,390	23,400
Wheat, Winter <sup>34</sup>	260	210	210	175	66.0	53.0	--	13,860	9,275
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Cotton <sup>5</sup>	85	73	84	72	817	733	933	143	140
Peanuts	19	21	19	20	3,650	3,300	3,600	69,350	72,000
	<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	--	--	1,175	1,175	2.25	--	--	2,645	--
Alfalfa	--	--	75	75	3.00	--	3.30	225	248
Other, All	--	--	1,100	1,100	2.20	--	2.10	2,420	2,310
	<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	--	--	23,050	23,470	2,275	2,374	2,367	52,430	55,554
Burley	--	--	1,300	1,200	1,850	1,950	1,800	2,405	2,160
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	250	270	2,300	2,200	2,200	575	594
Flue-Cured	--	--	21,500	22,000	2,300	2,400	2,400	49,450	52,800
	<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>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>									
	<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>
Barley <sup>34</sup>	3,623	3,052	3,158	2,558	69.1	77.9	--	218,187	199,282
Corn <sup>3</sup>	87,999	94,490	80,749	86,836	168.4	174.4	173.4	13,601,198	15,057,404
Soybeans <sup>3</sup>	82,650	83,698	81,732	83,047	48.0	50.6	51.4	3,926,339	4,268,884
Wheat, Winter <sup>34</sup>	39,681	36,137	32,346	30,222	42.5	55.3	--	1,374,690	1,671,532
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Cotton <sup>5</sup>	8,581	10,145	8,075	9,655	766	802	797	12,888	16,034
Peanuts	1,625	1,672	1,561	1,587	3,845	4,044	3,976	6,001,357	6,310,200
	<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	--	--	54,437	56,127	2.47	--	2.52	134,388	141,573
Alfalfa	--	--	17,778	18,065	3.32	--	3.48	58,974	62,817
Other, All	--	--	36,659	38,062	2.06	--	2.07	75,414	78,756
	<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	--	--	328,650	321,870	2,178	2,159	2,063	715,946	664,114
Burley	--	--	78,900	81,900	1,834	1,848	1,747	144,675	143,040
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	17,850	16,770	3,144	2,680	2,501	56,125	41,944
Flue-Cured	--	--	220,000	214,000	2,210	2,226	2,150	486,250	460,050
	<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>

<sup>1</sup> Commodities with estimates not available are denoted by "--". <sup>2</sup> Forecasted. <sup>3</sup> Area harvested represents grain. <sup>4</sup> Includes area planted in preceding fall. <sup>5</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.