



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:
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and Consumer Services
Sandra Adams, Commissioner

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Virginia 2016 Wheat Forecast and May Hay Stocks

Virginia farmers expect to harvest 11.7 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2016 according to the Virginia Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2016 would be down 16 percent from the previous year. Farmers seeded 240,000 acres last fall with 185,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Based on crop conditions as of May 1 and assuming a normal growing season, farmers expect a yield of 63.0 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from 2015. Acres for other uses totaled 55,000 acres and will be used as cover crop or cut as silage or hay.

Winter wheat overall is in good condition with farmers currently scouting for pests and applying fungicides. Seventy-seven percent of the crop is headed compared to 35 percent at this time last year and 62 percent for the five year average.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.43 billion bushels, up 4 percent from 2015. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 29.8 million acres, down 8 percent from last year. As of May 1, the U.S. yield was forecast at 47.8 bushels per acre, up 5.3 bushels from last year.

As of May 1, **Virginia** on-farm **hay stocks** totaled 420,000 tons, up 50,000 tons from May 1, 2015 stocks. Farmers have used 79 percent of their hay stocks since December 1, 2015.

Producers are beginning to cut and bale hay in the state. Both alfalfa and all other hay are in good-fair condition.

U. S. hay stocks were at 25.1 million tons, up 623,000 tons from 2015.

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