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**In Cooperation with:**  
Virginia Department of Agriculture  
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Charles Green,  
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### Virginia farmers planting more soybeans in 2018

**Richmond, Va.** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the Prospective Plantings report today, showing the first indications of row crop acreages for the growing season.

“The March 1, Intentions Survey showed soybean farmers intend to plant 30,000 more acres than in 2017,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “The corn farmers intend to plant the same acreage as last year.”

**Soybean** acreage in Virginia is expected to total 630,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from the previous year. U.S. soybean planted area for 2018 is estimated at 89 million acres, down one percent from last year.

Farmers in Virginia intend to plant 500,000 acres of **corn**, unchanged from 2017. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 88 million acres for all purposes in 2018, down two percent from last year and six percent from 2016.

**Upland cotton** acreage to be planted in Virginia is forecast at 80,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from 2017. The U.S. total upland cotton acreage is estimated at 13.2 million acres, up seven percent from the previous year.

**Peanut** acreage in Virginia is expected to total 23,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from the previous year. U.S. peanut planted area for 2018 is estimated at 1.54 million acres, down 18 percent from last year.

**Flue-cured tobacco** growers in Virginia intend to set 23,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2017. For flue-cured producing states, growers intend to set 207,000 acres, down 2,500 acres from last year.

Producers intend to set 280 acres of **dark-fired tobacco** in Virginia, up 10 acres from the previous year. Acreage set to burley tobacco was estimated at 1,100 acres, unchanged from 2017.

**Barley** seeded by Virginia farmers in the fall of 2017 totaled 40,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from previous year. U.S. seeded acreage was 2.29 million acres, down six percent from 2017.

**Winter wheat** seeded by Virginia farmers in the fall of 2017 totaled 230,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from previous year. Seeded acreage for the nation was 32.7 million acres, up slightly from 2016.

Farmers in the state intend to harvest 1.17 million acres of **all hay**, down 35,000 acres from 2017. U.S. farmers intend on harvesting 53.7 million acres of hay in 2018, down slightly from last year.

“I would like to thank all the farmers for taking the time out of your busy schedules to respond the March Agricultural Survey,” Ellison added. “The more farmers we have responding to our surveys, the more accurate data we can provide for the agricultural industry. I wish them a very prosperous and healthy year.”

To view the complete report, visit <https://release.nass.usda.gov/reports/pspl0318.pdf>. For more information, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at (800) 772-0670.

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