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Virginia Corn and Soybean Production Expected to Increase

RICHMOND, Va. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the August Crop Production report today forecasting larger Virginia soybean and corn crops. This month’s report is the first of the season to forecast row crop production.

“The soybean crop experienced a very hot, humid and mostly dry growing season with scattered rains, however in late June and then again in late July the crop received some heavy rains,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “By August 5, the soybean crop was rated 78 percent good-to-excellent.”

Soybean production for **Virginia** is forecast at 26.2 million bushels, up 1 percent from 2017. Yield was estimated at 43.0 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushels from a year ago. **U.S.** soybean production was forecast at 4.59 billion bushels, up 4 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 51.6 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 88.9 million acres, down 1 percent from 2017.

“Some corn producers reported the dry and hot weather stressed their crop during tasseling while others reported seeing very good crops,” Ellison said. “Some producers were concerned about the heavy rainfalls leading to sprouting that could potentially cause some rotting.”

Corn production in **Virginia** was forecast at 48.8 million bushels, up 3 percent from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 148 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from the 2017 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 330,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2017. The **U.S.** corn production was forecast at 14.6 billion bushels, down slightly from 2017. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 178.4 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, down 1 percent from 2017.

Virginia farmers expect to harvest 9.00 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2018. The expected crop for 2018 would be down 6 percent from the previous year. Growers expect a yield of 60.0 bushels per acre, down 6.0 bushels from 2017 and up 1.0 bushels from July. Farmers expect to harvest 150,000 acres for grain. Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.19 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 2017. The United States yield is forecast at 47.9 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month and down 2.3 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 24.8 million acres, down 2 percent from last year.

Barley producers in **Virginia** forecast harvesting 792,000 bushels for 2018, down 1 percent from last year. Acres expected to be harvested for grain total 11,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Producers expect a yield of 72.0 bushels per acre, up 5.0 from last month but down 1.0 bushel from 2017. **U. S.** production is expected to total 156.2 million bushels, up 10 percent from last year. Acres harvested is forecast at 2.05 million acres, up 5 percent from last year. Growers nationwide anticipate a yield of 76.3 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushels from the July forecast but up 3.7 bushels from 2017.

Virginia cotton production is projected to be 185,000 bales, down 4 percent from last year. Cotton yields are forecast to average 1,057 pounds per acre, down 53 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 84,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2017. **U.S.** cotton production was forecast at 19.2 million bales, down 8 percent from 2017. Yields are forecast to average 911 pounds per acre, up 6 pounds from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 10.1 million acres, down 9 percent from the previous year.

Peanut farmers in **Virginia** anticipate harvesting 96.6 million pounds for 2018, down 21 percent from last year. Acres expected to be harvested total 23,000 acres, down 4,000 from last year. Producers expect a yield of 4,200 pounds per acre, down 350 pounds from 2017. **U.S.** peanut production was forecast at 6.09 billion pounds, down 16 percent from 2017. Yields are forecast to average 4,167 pounds per acre, up 93 pounds from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.46 billion acres, down 18 percent from the previous year.

Virginia flue-cured tobacco production was forecast at 50.6 million pounds, unchanged from 2017. Yield was projected at 2,300 pounds per acre, unchanged pounds from the 2017 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 22,000 acres, unchanged acres from last year's crop. **U.S. flue-cured** tobacco production was forecast at 430 million pounds, down 7 percent from last year. Tobacco growers plan to harvest 204,500 acres, down 2 percent from 2017. Yields were expected to average 2,104 pounds per acre, down 95 pounds from last year.

Production of **Virginia dark fire-cured** tobacco was forecast at 532,000 pounds, down 8 percent from the previous year. **Virginia burley** tobacco production was forecast at 1.80 million pounds, down 18 percent from last year.

Virginia alfalfa hay production is forecast at 153,000 tons, 21 percent below the 2017 level. **Virginia other hay** production was estimated at 2.52 million tons, down 5 percent from last year.

Thank you to all the farmers for taking time to complete the August Agricultural Yield Survey,” Ellison said. “We appreciate their efforts during the busy growing season.”

NASS gathered data for the August Agricultural Yield Survey earlier this month. The monthly yield surveys begin in May with the focus on small grains through July and shifts to row crops beginning in August.

All reports are available on the NASS website: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Calendar/reports_by_date.php.

For more information about Virginia surveys and reports, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at (800) 772-0670, or visit https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Virginia/.

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

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018 ²	2017	2018		2017	2018 ²
						Jul 1 ²	Aug 1 ²		
VIRGINIA									
	<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 ^{3,4}	30	40	11	11	73.0	67.0	72.0	803	792
Corn ³	500	490	340	330	140.0	--	148.0	47,600	48,840
Soybeans	600	620	590	610	44.0	--	43.0	25,960	26,230
Wheat, Winter ^{3,4}	210	220	145	150	66.0	59.0	60.0	9,570	9,000
	<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 ⁵	84	85	83	84	1,110	--	1,057	192	185
Peanuts	27	23	27	23	4,550	--	4,200	122,850	96,600
	<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	--	--	1,205	1,095	2.36	--	2.44	2,838	2,673
Alfalfa	--	--	55	45	3.50	--	3.40	193	153
Other, All	--	--	1,150	1,050	2.30	--	2.40	2,645	2,520
	<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	--	--	23,370	23,280	2,284	--	2,274	53,381	52,932
Burley	--	--	1,100	1,000	2,000	--	1,800	2,200	1,800
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	270	280	2,150	--	1,900	581	532
Flue Cured	--	--	22,000	22,000	2,300	2,200	2,300	50,600	50,600
UNITED STATES									
	<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 ^{3,4}	2,481	2,549	1,954	2,046	72.6	75.6	76.3	141,923	156,176
Corn ³	90,167	89,128	82,703	81,770	176.6	--	178.4	14,604,067	14,586,485
Soybeans	90,142	89,557	89,522	88,862	49.1	--	51.6	4,391,553	4,585,916
Wheat, Winter ^{3,4}	32,696	32,732	25,291	24,816	50.2	48.0	47.9	1,269,437	1,189,199
	<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 ⁵	12,613	13,518	11,100	10,139	905	--	911	20,923	19,235
Peanuts	1,871	1,502	1,776	1,461	4,074	--	4,167	7,233,600	6,088,600
	<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	--	--	53,784	55,068	2.44	--	2.33	131,455	128,504
Alfalfa	--	--	16,563	17,351	3.32	--	3.33	55,068	57,778
Other, All	--	--	37,221	37,717	2.05	--	1.88	76,387	70,726
	<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	--	--	321,470	303,680	2,209	--	2,130	710,161	646,752
Burley	--	--	81,500	69,800	1,977	--	1,905	161,140	132,960
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	19,270	18,080	3,089	--	3,029	59,531	54,764
Flue Cured	--	--	209,500	204,500	2,199	2,111	2,104	460,650	430,250

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