



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
Dr. Jewel H. Bronaugh, Commissioner

RELEASED: July 12, 2018

Virginia winter wheat production down from 2017

RICHMOND, Va. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its July Crop Production report today based on the Agricultural Yield survey conducted at the beginning of month. The report includes information on Virginia’s winter wheat, barley and flue-cured tobacco crops.

“The winter wheat experienced above average temperatures and heavy precipitation during the month of June,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “Producers reported a delayed harvest due to excess moisture from heavy rains in late May and early June, as well as standing water in fields. As of July 8, 89 percent of the crop was harvested, compared to 91 percent last year and 81 percent for the five-year average.”

Virginia farmers expect to harvest 8.85 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2018, down eight percent from the previous year. The forecast was based on crop conditions as of July 1 and decreased 20 percent from the June forecast. Growers expect a yield of 59 bushels per acre, down seven bushels from 2017 and down four bushels from June. Farmers seeded 220,000 acres last fall with 150,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Acres for other uses totaled 70,000 acres and will be used as cover crop for tobacco or cut as silage or hay.

Winter wheat production for the **nation** was forecast at 1.19 billion bushels, down slightly from the June 1 forecast and down six percent from 2017. Based on July 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 48 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushels from last month and down 2.2 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 24.8 million acres, down two percent from last year.

Barley producers in **Virginia** forecast harvesting 737,000 bushels for 2018, down eight percent from last year. Acres expected to be harvested for grain total 11,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Producers expect a yield of 67 bushels per acre, down six bushels from 2017. **U. S.** production is expected to total 155 million bushels. Acres harvested is forecast at 2.05 million acres, up five percent from last year. Growers nationwide anticipate a yield of 75.6 bushels per acre, increased three bushels from 2017.

Flue-cured tobacco production in **Virginia** is forecast at 48.4 million pounds, four percent lower than the 50.6 million pounds produced in 2017. Acres for harvest are estimated at 22,000, unchanged from the 22,000 acres harvested last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 2,200 pounds, down 100 pounds from last year. **U. S.** production is forecast at 432 million pounds down six percent from 2017. Acres harvested is estimated at 204,500 acres, down 2.4 percent from last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 2,111 pounds, down 88 pounds from the previous year.

“I would like to thank all the farmers for taking time out of your busy schedules to respond the Agricultural Yield 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/crop0718.pdf>. For more information, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at (800) 772-0670.

###