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Virginia Yield Forecasts Lower

RICHMOND, Va. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the September Crop Production report today, showing decreased yield forecasts for field crops.

“The September 1 crop production report indicates a decrease in yields for most of the row crops when compared to 2017,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia State Statistician. “The corn crop is only crop that indicated a yield increase from last year.”

Corn production in **Virginia** is forecast at 48.8 million bushels, unchanged from the August forecast and up 3 percent from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 148 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and up 8.0 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 is forecast at 14.8 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 2 percent from 2017. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 181.3 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels from last month and up 4.7 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast and down 1 percent from 2017.

Soybean production for **Virginia** is forecast at 26.2 million bushels, unchanged from the August forecast and up 1 percent from 2017. Yield was estimated at 43 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and down 1.0 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 610,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.69 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 7 percent from last year. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 52.8 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from last month and up 3.7 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 88.9 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast and down 1 percent from 2017.

Virginia cotton production is projected to be 220,000 bales, up 19 percent from the August forecast and up 15 percent from last year. Cotton yields are forecast to average 1,089 pounds per acre, up 32 pounds from last month but down 21 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 97,000 acres, up 13,000 acres from the August forecast and up 14,000 acres from 2017. **U.S.** cotton production was forecast at 19.7 million bales, up 2 percent from the August forecast and down 6 percent from 2017. Yields are forecast to average 895 pounds per acre, down 16 pounds from last month and down 10 pounds from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 10.6 million acres, up 4 percent from the August forecast and down 5 percent from the previous year.

Peanut farmers in **Virginia** anticipate harvesting 98.4 million pounds for 2018, down 20 percent from last year. Acres expected to be harvested total 24,000 acres, down 3,000 from last year. Producers expect a yield of 4,100 pounds per acre, down 450 pounds from 2017.

Virginia flue-cured tobacco production is forecast at 48.4 million pounds, down 4 percent from the August forecast and no change from 2017. Yield was projected at 2,200 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from last month and not change from the 2017 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 22,000 acres, unchanged acres from last year's crop. For the **flue-cured producing states** production is forecast at 415 million pounds, down 4 percent from the August forecast and down 10 percent from last year. Flue-cured growers plan to harvest 207,500 acres, down 1 percent from 2017. Yields were expected to average 1,998 pounds per acre, down 201 pounds from last year.

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

Virginia potato production is forecast at 1.18 million hundredweight, down 1 percent from 2017. Yield is forecast at 240 hundredweight per acre and growers expect to harvest 4,900 acres.

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

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

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018 ²	2017	2018		2017	2018
						Aug 1 ¹	Sep 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 ³⁴	30	40	11	11	73.0	72.0	--	803	792
Corn ³	500	490	340	330	140.0	148.0	148.0	47,600	48,840
Soybeans ³	600	620	590	610	44.0	43.0	43.0	25,960	26,230
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	210	220	145	150	66.0	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	98	83	97	1,110	1,057	1,089	192	220
Peanuts	27	24	27	24	4,550	4,200	4,100	122,850	98,400
	<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	2,179	53,381	50,732
Burley	--	--	1,100	1,000	2,000	1,800	1,800	2,200	1,800
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	270	280	2,150	1,900	1,900	581	532
Flue-Cured	--	--	22,000	22,000	2,300	2,300	2,200	50,600	48,400
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 ³⁴	2,481	2,549	1,954	2,046	72.6	76.3	--	141,923	156,176
Corn ³	90,167	89,128	82,703	81,770	176.6	178.4	181.3	14,604,067	14,826,690
Soybeans ³	90,142	89,557	89,522	88,862	49.1	51.6	52.8	4,391,553	4,693,135
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	32,696	32,732	25,291	24,816	50.2	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	14,042	11,100	10,554	905	911	895	20,923	19,682
Peanuts	1,871	1,427	1,776	1,388	4,074	4,167	4,151	7,233,600	5,759,950
	<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	304,980	2,209	2,130	2,088	710,161	636,772
Burley	--	--	81,500	64,800	1,977	1,905	1,996	161,140	129,360
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	19,270	18,880	3,089	3,029	3,060	59,531	57,772
Flue-Cured	--	--	209,500	207,500	2,199	2,104	1,998	460,650	414,500

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.