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### **Virginia 2019 Wheat Forecast and May Hay Stocks**

**Virginia** farmers expect to harvest 7.13 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2019 according to the Virginia Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2019 would be down 23 percent from the previous year. Farmers seeded 180,000 acres last fall with 115,000 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 62.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from 2018. Acres for other uses totaled 65,000 acres and will be used as cover crop or cut as silage or hay.

Winter wheat overall is in good condition with farmers currently catching up from recent excessive moisture that has delayed crop progress. Twenty-four percent of the crop is headed compared to 27 percent at this time last year and 26 percent for the five year average.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.27 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2018. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 25.2 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. As of May 1, the U.S. yield was forecast at 50.3 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from last year.

As of May 1, **Virginia** on-farm **hay stocks** totaled 270,000 tons, up 20,000 tons from May 1, 2018 stocks. Farmers have used 85 percent of their hay stocks since December 1, 2018.

**U. S.** hay stocks were at 14.9 million tons, down 442,000 tons from 2018.