



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - All other hay production is forecast at 1,140,000 tons, up 5 percent from the August 1 forecast of 1,083,000 tons, and up 11 percent from the 2017 crop. All other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 570,000 acres in 2018, this is unchanged from the August 1 forecast, and unchanged from 2017. Yield is expected to average 2.00 tons per acre, up 0.10 ton per acre from the August 1 forecast, and up 0.20 ton per acre from 2017. The October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2019.

United States - Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures dry hay production for 2018 is forecast at 59.5 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 8 percent from 2017. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.10 ton from the August forecast and up 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 17.4 million acres up 5 percent from 2017.

Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, the top three States in area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures in 2018, experienced drought conditions last year. Each of these States is expecting increased acres and improved yields in 2018 compared with 2017. A record high yield is expected in Pennsylvania.

Other hay production is forecast at 74.9 million tons, up 6 percent from the August forecast, but down 2 percent from 2017. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 1.98 tons per acre, up 0.10 ton from the August forecast but down 0.07 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 37.7 million acres, up 1 percent from 2017.

Texas and Missouri, the top two States in area of other hay in 2018, are experiencing drought conditions of varying intensity. As a result, both of these States are expecting lower yields than last year. Favorable conditions in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, and Oklahoma have producers expecting record high yields in 2018.

Corn production is forecast at 14.8 billion bushels, down slightly from the September forecast, but up 1 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 180.7 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from the September forecast, but up 4.1 bushels from 2017. If realized, this will be the highest yield and second highest production on record for the United States. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, down slightly from the previous estimate, and down 1 percent from 2017. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data.

Soybean production is forecast at a record 4.69 billion bushels, down slightly from September, but up 6 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record 53.1 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and up 3.8 bushels from last year. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 88.3 million acres, down 1 percent from September and down 1 percent from 2017. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data.