



Crop News Release

In Cooperation with the Georgia Department of Agriculture

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OCTOBER 1 FORECAST CORN YIELD DOWN

September temperatures were near normal, according to the USDA-NASS Georgia Field Office. Rainfall during September was above normal, especially in the northern part of the State where flooding occurred. Based on a survey of growers contacted around October 1, corn yields were down slightly from September. Cotton, hay, peanuts, soybeans and tobacco yields remained the same as last month. Harvesting conditions were slowed by wetter than normal conditions.

Corn yield for 2009 is expected to average 140 bushels per harvested acre, three bushels below last month, and the same as last year's record yield. Irrigation was active this summer. Total corn production is expected to total 49.0 million bushels from 350,000 acres harvested for grain. Production of this size would be 13 percent more than last year. By the end of the first week of October, harvest of corn for grain was 95 percent complete compared with the five year average of 94 percent.

Georgia's 2009 **cotton** crop is forecast to average 897 pounds of lint per harvested acre, the same as last month and 62 pounds more than last year. If realized this would be a state record yield. By the end of the first week of October, most of the cotton crop was rated in fair to mostly good condition. Acreage expected to be harvested this fall is estimated at 990,000 acres, the same as last month, but 70,000 acres more than last year. Production is estimated at 1.85 million bales, 16 percent more than last year's 1.60 million bales.

Peanut production in Georgia is forecast at 1.75 billion pounds, compared with last year's 2.33 billion pounds. Harvested acres are expected to be 500,000 compared with 685,000 in 2008. Yields across the Georgia peanut belt are expected to average 3,500 pounds per acre, the same as last month and 100 pounds more than last year. Irrigating the crop was active during the summer. By the end of the first week of October, most of the crop was rated in mostly good condition.

Soybean yields in Georgia are forecast at 34 bushels per acre, the same as last month, and 3 bushels more than last year. If this yield is realized, it will tie the State record. Harvested acres are estimated to be 450,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from last month. Production is projected to be 15.3 million bushels, up 19 percent from last year's production. By the end of the first week of October, harvesting was just getting underway.

Tobacco yields for 2009 are expected to average 1,500 pounds per acre, the same as last month, but 600 pounds less than in 2008. Disease problems and the wet spring have hurt this year's crop. Acreage harvested is expected to be 14,000 acres, the same as last month and 2,000 acres less than last year. This puts potential production at 21.0 million pounds for the year 2009, 37 percent less than in 2008.

Hay production is expected to total 1.73 million tons, the same as the previous forecast, but 9 percent more than in 2008. Yields are forecast at 2.50 tons per acre, the same as last month, but 0.30 tons more than last year. Acreage cut for hay totals 690,000 acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but 30,000 acres less than in 2008.

Georgia's 2009 **pecan** production is forecast at 90 million pounds, up 29 percent from last year's 70 million pounds. Production of improved varieties is forecast at 86 million pounds. Native and seedling production is forecast at 4 million pounds. Frequent rain throughout the summer produced widespread disease problems.

Continued

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS
CORN PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY FROM SEPTEMBER FORECAST
SOYBEAN PRODUCTION UP FRACTIONALLY
COTTON PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

Corn production is forecast at 13.0 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and 8 percent higher than 2008. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 164.2 bushels per acre, up 2.3 bushels from September and 10.3 bushels above last year. If realized, this yield will be the highest on record and total production will be second only to the record set in 2007. Yield forecasts remained unchanged or increased from last month across the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and Ohio Valley where warm, dry weather during much of September helped push the late-developing corn crop towards maturity. Light frost was reported in parts of the northern tier of the Great Plains and Corn Belt in late September. However, temperatures were not considered low enough to terminate crop growth. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, down 1 percent from the September forecast but 1 percent above 2008.

Soybean production is forecast at a record high 3.25 billion bushels, up slightly from the September forecast and up 10 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.4 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month and up 2.7 bushels from 2008. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record. Compared with last month, yields are forecast higher or unchanged in all States except Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, and New York. The largest decrease in yield from the September forecast is expected in Mississippi where persistent rain during the last two weeks of the month increased the potential impact of disease. Increases of 2 bushels are expected in Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Virginia. If realized, the forecasted yield in Alabama, Georgia, and Nebraska will be a record high and the forecasted yield in Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania will tie the previous record high. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 76.6 million acres, down slightly from the previous estimate but up 3 percent from 2008.

All Cotton production is forecast at 13.0 million 480-pound bales, down 3 percent from last month but up 1 percent from last year. Upland cotton production is forecast at 12.6 million 480-pound bales, down 3 percent from last month but up 2 percent from last year. Producers in the Delta region are expecting decreased yield due to excessive amounts of rainfall received during September. Upland growers in Alabama and Georgia are expecting record high yields. The American-Pima production forecast, at 367,000 bales, was carried forward from the August 2009 forecast.

Peanut harvest was underway in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina by September 13, with 3 percent of the Nation's crop dug, 1 point ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Wet weather during the week ending September 20 stalled harvest in Georgia, the largest peanut-producing State. By October 4, harvest had begun in all of the major peanut producing States. At 16 percent complete, progress was 9 points behind last year and 7 points behind the average. Overall, 70 percent of the peanut crop was rated in good to excellent condition on October 4, a slight decline from the beginning of September but 5 points better than ratings last year.

Tobacco: U.S. all tobacco production for 2009 is forecast at 814 million pounds, 1 percent above the September forecast and up 2 percent from 2008. Area harvested is forecast at 353,290 acres, virtually unchanged from last year but up 2 percent from the September forecast. The yield for 2009 is expected to average 2,304 pounds per acre, down 15 pounds from the previous forecast but 46 pounds greater than 2008. Flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 516 million pounds, 2 percent above the previous forecast and 3 percent above last year. Growers plan to harvest 223,500 acres in 2009, up 2 percent from the September forecast but virtually unchanged from a year ago. Yield is expected to average 2,307 pounds per acre, 2 pounds above the last forecast and up 68 pounds from 2008. Yields in North Carolina and Georgia are expected to remain unchanged from the September forecast, at 2,400 and 1,500 pounds per acre, respectively. The average yield in South Carolina decreased 50 pounds from last month.