



# Tennessee News Release

Tennessee Field Office · PO Box 41505 · Nashville, TN 37204 · (615) 781-5300 · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)  
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## DESPITE WEATHER, RECORD AND NEAR RECORD CROPS ANTICIPATED

**NASHVILLE, October 9, 2009** – September weather was highlighted by a dry start, followed by abundant rainfall throughout the remainder of the month that led to slowed crop development and harvest delays. By month's end, harvest progress for all major rows crops was about three weeks behind the normal pace. Results of a producers survey conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the state's cotton and tobacco yields decreased from earlier projections, corn and hay yields increased, and soybeans remained unchanged. The October forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 136 bushels per acre, up 18 bushels from 2008; **Cotton**, 943 pounds per acre, up 34 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 40 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from the previous year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,950 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from last year; and **Other Hay**, except alfalfa, 2.4 tons per acre, up 0.3 tons from 2008.

## COTTON FARMERS EXPECT NEAR RECORD YIELDS

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 550,000 bales, up 4 percent from last year's production of 530,000 bales. Cotton yields are expected to average 943 pounds per acre, up 34 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 280,000 acres, unchanged from 2008. Producers commented that yields may have been impacted by the adverse wet, cloudy, cool weather experienced during most of September. The effect of this pattern was some boll rot, some hard lock and a major delay in harvest. Defoliation and harvest progress around October 1 was a full three and one-half week behind normal. No cotton had been ginned and only 28 percent of the crop had been defoliated as of October 4 compared to an average of 75 percent.

## LARGEST SOYBEAN CROP IN 30 YEARS

Soybean production is forecast at 61.2 million bushels, up 11.6 million from last year's output and, if realized, will be the highest production since 1979 and the second largest on record. Soybean yields are forecast at 40 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above 2008. The State's planted acreage was updated from June and is now estimated at 1.57 million acres. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.53 million acres, up 70,000 from a year ago and the largest since 1984. Early September saw dry conditions with only isolated showers in the western part of the state. The weather pattern changed dramatically as weeks of near constant rain the remainder of the month helped the late planted beans fill pods. However, given the duration of the precipitation and the continuing wet conditions, there have been reports of beans sprouting in the pods. Some early maturing soybeans were harvested before the rain began with good yields. Frogeye and Asian Rust have appeared in some locations, but most of the crop was mature enough not to be affected. As of October 4, only 9 percent of the crop had been harvested and 73 percent dropping leaves, behind last year and the five-year average.

## CORN PRODUCTION UP FROM 2008

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 80.2 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 136 bushels per acre, 18 bushels above 2008 and 1 bushel above the September 1 forecast. The State's planted acreage was updated from June and is now estimated at 670,000 acres, down 20,000 from last year. Farmers expect to harvest 590,000 acres for grain, 40,000 less than last year. As of the week ending October 4, over 90 percent of the corn crop was mature. Grain harvest progress has been hindered by wet conditions and trails the 5-year average by three weeks. Virtually all acreage for silage has been harvested.

(over)

## BURLEY PRODUCTION EXPTECTED TO INCREASE

As of October 1, burley production is forecast at 27.3 million pounds, 11 percent above a year ago. The state average yield is forecast at 1,950 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from 2008. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 14,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2008. The tobacco crop deteriorated somewhat during September as ripe, ready to cut tobacco could not be gathered on a timely basis due to muddy conditions. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 3,200 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre, unchanged and down 200 pounds per acre, respectively.

## NEAR RECORD HAY YIELDS FORECASTED

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.56 million tons, 17 percent above last year's crop. Yields are expected to average 2.4 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.90 million acres, up 50,000 acres from a year earlier. Plentiful rainfall, combined with moderate temperature, has resulted in near ideal growing conditions. Forecasted yields are the highest estimated in the state since 2004's record of 2.5 tons per acre.

### CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2009, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2008	Indicated 2009	2008	Indicated 2009	2008	Indicated 2009
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	11,100	8,890	10,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	630	590	118	136	74,340	80,240
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	280	280	909	943	530	550
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,850	1,900	2.10	2.40	3,885	4,560
Soybeans	bu.	1,460	1,530	34	40	49,640	61,200
Tobacco, All	lb.	21.8	21.6	2,403	2,362	52,380	51,020
Dark fire-cured	lb.	7.2	6.4	3,200	3,200	23,040	20,480
Burley	lb.	13.0	14.0	1,900	1,950	24,700	27,300
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.6	1.2	2,900	2,700	4,640	3,240
Winter Wheat	bu.	520	340	63.0	51.0	32,760	17,340
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,769,300	10,016,000
Corn for grain	bu.	78,640	79,294	153.9	164.2	12,101,238	13,018,058
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	7,569	7,732	813	807	12,815	12,998
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,082	39,195	1.95	2.06	76,052	80,752
Soybeans	bu.	74,681	76,619	39.7	42.4	2,967,007	3,250,113
Tobacco, All	lb.	354.5	353.3	2,258	2,304	800,504	813,964
Dark fire-cured	lb.	18.6	16,150	3,344	3,317	62,190	53,565
Burley	lb.	97.5	101.6	2,067	2,115	201,530	214,930
Dark air-cured	lb.	8.5	5.8	2,981	3,017	25,340	17,500
Winter Wheat	bu.	39,608	34,485	47.1	44.2	1,867,333	1,522,718

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

##

*Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)*