



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
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Number 23

Released: October 9, 2009

VIRGINIA'S PRODUCERS EXPECT GOOD YIELDS IN 2009

Based on conditions as of October 1, Virginia corn yields are forecast to average 128 bushels per acre, up 20 bushels per acre from last year. If realized, production would be 45.4 million bushels up 24 percent from 2008. Producers expect to harvest 355,000 acres for grain this year.

Virginia's soybean yields are expected to be 37 bushels per acre which is 5 bushels per acre greater than last year. Production is estimated at 21.5 million bushels, up 18 percent from 2008. Harvested acres are at 580,000, up 10,000 acres from last year.

Alfalfa hay production is expected to be up 26 percent from last year to 340,000 tons. Alfalfa yield is expected to average 3.40 tons per acre, .40 of a ton per acre greater than in 2008. The forecasted yield for other hay is 2.20 tons per acre. Other hay production is forecast at 2.57 million tons, up 4 percent from 2008.

Cotton producers currently expect to harvest 64,000 acres with an average yield of 900 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 120,000 bales, up 6 percent from last year.

Burley tobacco producers expect an average yield of 2,100 pounds per acre from 2,000 acres. Production is forecast at 4.20 million pounds, up 200,000 pounds from last year.

Flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,350 pounds per acre, down 60 pounds from 2008. Production is estimated to be nearly 40.0 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year.

Fire-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from the 2008 estimate. If realized, production would total 1.24 million pounds, up 24 percent from last year.

The forecasted peanut yield of 3,400 pounds per acre is up 50 pounds per acre from 2008. Production is forecast at 40.8 million pounds, down 49 percent from last year. As of October 4, harvesting activities had begun with 9 percent of the crop combined.

Apple production in Virginia is forecast at 200 million pounds, down 30 million pounds from last year. As of October 4, fall apple harvest in Virginia was 65 percent completed, with the winter varieties harvest at 37 percent complete.

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U.S. Corn Production Up Slightly from September Forecast
U.S. Soybean Production Up Fractionally
U.S. Cotton Production Down 3 Percent

U.S. **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.

U.S. **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.

All **cotton** production in the U.S. 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.

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