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Tennessee cotton forecast up 29 percent from 2016

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the September Crop Production report today, showing an increase in yields for most crops.

“This is a very promising season for agricultural producers in Tennessee,” according to Debra Kenerson, Tennessee State Statistician. “With the exception of burley tobacco, which showed a 100 pound per acre decrease from the August forecast, the September forecasts show yield increases for all other crops.”

Tennessee cotton production is projected to be 740,000 bales, up nine percent from the August forecast and up 29 percent from last year. Cotton yields are forecast to average 1,045 pounds per acre, up nine pounds from last month and down 59 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 340,000 acres, up 25,000 acres from the August forecast and up 90,000 acres from 2017. **U.S.** cotton production was forecast at 21.8 million bales, up six percent from the August forecast and up 27 percent from 2016. Yields are forecast to average 908 pounds per acre, up 16 pounds from last month and up 41 pounds from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 11.5 million acres, up four percent from the August forecast and up 21 percent from the previous year.

Corn production in **Tennessee** is forecast at 131 million bushels, up one percent from the August forecast and up five percent from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 168 bushels per acre, up two bushels from last month and up 17 bushels from the 2016 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 780,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from 2016. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 14.2 billion bushels, up slightly from the August forecast and down six percent from 2016. Based on conditions as of Sept. 1, yields are expected to average 169.9 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from last month and down 4.7 bushels from 2016. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 83.5 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast and down four percent from 2016.

Soybean production for **Tennessee** is forecast at 82.6 million bushels, up seven percent from the August forecast and up 13 percent from 2016. Yield was estimated at 48 bushels per acre, up three from last month and three from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.72 million acres, up 90,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.43 billion bushels, up one percent from the August forecast and up three percent from last year. Based on Sept. 1, conditions, yields are expected to average 49.9 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushels from last month and down 2.2 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 88.7 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast and up seven percent from 2016.

Tennessee burley tobacco production is forecast at 19.2 million pounds, down 19 percent from the August forecast, but up 19 percent from 2016. Yield was projected at 1,600 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from

last month and up 250 pounds from the 2016 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 12,000 acres, unchanged acres from last year's crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 161 million pounds, up one percent from the August forecast and up 15 percent from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 81,500 acres, up two percent from 2016. Yields were expected to average 1,970 pounds per acre, up 223 pounds from last year.

Production of **Tennessee dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 23.3 million pounds, up three percent from the August forecast and up 36 percent from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 4.16 million pounds, up 28 percent from the August forecast and up 78 percent from last year.

“Going forward, we’ll need as much cooperation from agricultural producers as possible during our upcoming October Agricultural Yield Survey, so that we can more accurately forecast the effects of the rain and wind events resulting from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma,” Kenerson said. “Thank you to the Tennessee agricultural producers who make these reports possible not only for our state, but for the nation.”

NASS gathered data for the September Agricultural Yield Survey earlier this month. The monthly yield surveys begin in May with the focus on small grains through July and shifts to row crops beginning in August through the remainder of the growing season.

All reports are available on the NASS website:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Calendar/reports_by_date.php.

For more information about Tennessee surveys and reports, call Debra Kenerson at the NASS Tennessee Field Office at (615) 891-0903, or (800) 626-0987, or visit

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Tennessee/.

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**CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, September 1
TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES**

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2016	2017	2016	2017 ²	2016	2017 ¹		2016	2017
						Aug 1	Sep 1 ²		
TENNESSEE									
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn ³	880	840	830	780	151.0	166.0	168.0	125,330	131,040
Soybeans ³	1,660	1,750	1,630	1,720	45.0	45.0	48.0	73,350	82,560
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	400	380	335	285	73.0	72.0	--	24,455	20,520
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Cotton ⁵	255,000	345,000	250,000	340,000	1,104	1,036	1,045	575	740
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	20,200	21,100	1,767	2,173	2,209	35,690	46,610
Burley	--	--	12,000	12,000	1,350	1,700	1,600	16,200	19,200
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	7,000	7,500	2,450	3,000	3,100	17,150	23,250
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	1,200	1,600	1,950	2,500	2,600	2,340	4,160
UNITED STATES									
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn ³	94,004	90,886	86,748	83,496	174.6	169.5	169.9	15,148,038	14,184,466
Soybeans ³	83,433	89,513	82,736	88,731	52.1	49.4	49.9	4,306,671	4,431,043
Wheat, Winter ³⁴	36,137	32,839	30,222	25,760	55.3	50.0	--	1,671,532	1,287,133
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Cotton ⁵	10,072,500	12,618,500	9,507,800	11,505,200	867	892	908	17,170	21,758
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	319,660	321,400	1,967	2,215	2,248	628,720	722,605
Burley	--	--	80,000	81,500	1,747	1,984	1,970	139,750	160,525
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	16,760	19,400	2,358	3,092	3,075	39,520	59,660
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,000	7,600	1,670	2,659	2,679	10,020	20,360

¹ Commodities with estimates not available are (denoted by "--"). ² Forecasted. ³ Area harvested represents grain. ⁴ Includes area planted in preceding fall. ⁵ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.