



News Release

USDA, NASS, Tennessee Field Office
Debra Kenerson, State Statistician
PO Box 41505
Nashville, Tennessee 37204-1505
(615) 781-5300 or 1-800-626-0987
Email: nass-tn@nass.usda.gov

In Cooperation with:
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Jai Templeton, Commissioner

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Tennessee 2016 Wheat Forecast and May Hay Stocks

Tennessee farmers expect to harvest 27.4 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2016 according to the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2016 would be up 2 percent from the previous year. Farmers seeded 440,000 acres last fall with 380,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Based on crop conditions as of May 1 and assuming a normal growing season, farmers expect a yield of 72.0 bushels per acre, up 4.0 bushels from 2015. Acres for other uses totaled 60,000 acres and will be used as cover crop or cut as silage or hay.

As of May 8, winter wheat was rated 0 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 57 percent good and 26 percent excellent. Crop progress is 86 percent headed compared to 70 percent at this time last year and 75 percent for the five-year average.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.43 billion bushels, up 4 percent from 2015. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 29.8 million acres, down 8 percent from last year. As of May 1, the U.S. yield was forecast at 47.8 bushels per acre, up 5.3 bushels from last year.

As of May 1, **Tennessee** on-farm **hay stocks** totaled 550,000 tons, down 80,000 from May 1, 2015 stocks. Farmers have used 82 percent of their hay stocks since December 1, 2015.

Producers are cutting and baling hay in the state as conditions for curing allow. Rainfall has been the primary deterrent to allowing producers to get their hay crop out of the field. At this point, hay supplies are reported as short.

U. S. hay stocks were at 25.1 million tons, up 623,000 tons from 2015.