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Kentucky Field Office



News Release

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KENTUCKY FARMERS EXPECTING RECORD CORN AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

Corn and soybean prospects as of November 1 continued to indicate record high production according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Despite a wet spring, growing conditions have been excellent. Adequate and timely rains helped push yields to record levels. Harvest is behind schedule due to wet conditions during October.

Kentucky corn for grain production was forecast at 180.8 million bushels, up 2 percent from the October 1 estimate and up 19 percent from the 2008 crop. If realized, the 2009 corn crop would be the largest on record. Production was up due to increased harvested acreage and yield. Yield was a record high 160 bushels per acre. Corn yield has been excellent due to ideal growing conditions. However, producers are contending with high moisture levels resulting in higher drying costs. As of November 1, harvesting of corn for grain was 73 percent complete. **U.S.** corn production was forecast at 12.9 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last month but 7 percent higher than 2008. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields were expected to average 162.9 bushels per acre, down 1.3 bushels from October but 9.0 bushels above last year. Despite the drop in yield from October, this yield would be the highest on record if realized. Total production would be second highest on record, only behind 2007.

Soybean production by **Kentucky** farmers was forecast at a record high 64.9 million bushels, up 5 percent from the October 1 estimate and up 36 percent from the 2008 crop. If realized, soybean crop would be the largest on record. Production was up from last year due to increased harvested acreage and yield. Yield was a record high 46 bushels per acre, up 11.5 bushels from the 2008 crop. Growing conditions have been excellent for full season beans. Double crop beans have had adequate moisture to produce a good crop, but some late maturing beans have experienced mild frost damage. As of November 1, harvesting of the soybean crop was 41 percent complete. **U.S.** soybean production was forecast at a record high 3.32 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the October forecast and up 12 percent from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, yields were expected to average 43.3 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from last month and up 3.6 bushels from 2008. If realized, this would be the highest U.S. yield on record.

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