



News Release

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KENTUCKY FARMERS EXPECT EXCELLENT CROP YIELDS

Prospects as of October 1 indicate record high corn and soybean production according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Hay and tobacco production were also expected to be good. Tobacco cutting and housing were nearing completion, corn harvesting was well under way while soybean harvesting was just getting started.

Corn for grain production by **Kentucky** farmers was forecast at 177.4 million bushels, 1 percent above the September forecast. If realized, production would be 16 percent higher than the 2008 crop, and 2 percent above the record high production set in 2004. Harvested acreage was estimated at 1.13 million acres, unchanged from September and up 10,000 acres from a year earlier. Yield was estimated at a record high 157 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the September estimate and 5 bushels above the previous record yield set in 2004. Despite a wet spring, corn has had mostly good growing conditions. **U.S.** corn production was 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 were 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 would be the highest on record and total production would be second only to the record set in 2007.

Kentucky soybean production was forecast at 62.0 million bushels, up 3 percent from both the September estimate and the previous record production set in 2006, and 30 percent above 2008. Harvested acreage was estimated at 1.41 million acres, down 20,000 acres from September but up 30,000 acres from 2008. Yield was forecast at 44 bushels per acre, equal to the record yield set in 2004 and 2006. If realized, yield would be up two bushels from September and 9.5 bushels above 2008. Growing conditions have been excellent for full season beans, and double crop beans have had adequate moisture to produce a good crop. **U.S.** soybean production was 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 were 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 would be the third highest yield on record.

Burley production by **Kentucky** farmers was forecast at 161.3 million pounds, up slightly from the September forecast and 10 percent above last year. Compared to last year, both harvested acreage and yield showed increases. Yield per acre was estimated at 2,150 pounds, down 50 pounds from September but 50 pounds above 2008. Harvested acreage was estimated at 75,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from September and 5,000 acres above the previous year. Curing conditions have been less than ideal due to wet weather. Production for the **Burley Producing States** totaled 214.9 million pounds, virtually unchanged from the September forecast but 7 percent above last year. Yields were expected to average 2,115 pounds per acre, 45 pounds below last month but 48 pounds above a year ago.

Kentucky dark fire-cured tobacco was forecast at 31.9 million pounds, down 17 percent from a year earlier. **Dark air-cured tobacco** was forecast at 14.3 million pounds, a 31 percent drop from the 2008 crop of 20.7 million pounds.

All hay production by **Kentucky** farmers was forecast at 6.11 million tons, up slightly from the August forecast and up 18 percent from the 2008 crop. **Alfalfa hay** production was forecast at 828,000 tons, up 3 percent from August and 38 percent above last year. Yield was forecast at 3.6 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from August and 1.1 tons above the 2008 crop. **Other hay** production was forecast at 5.28 million tons, unchanged from August and up 16 percent from a year earlier. Yield was estimated at 2.4 tons per acre, unchanged from August and 0.5 ton above a year earlier.

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