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Kentucky Field Office



News Release

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KENTUCKY CROP PROSPECTS REMAIN GOOD

Most Kentucky crops were in good to excellent condition as of September 1, according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Yield prospects remain favorable for row crops and tobacco. More normal weather patterns toward the end of August helped crop growth although most crops are behind last year and average because of a wet spring and delayed planting.

Corn production in **Kentucky** was forecast at 175.2 million bushels, up 3 percent from the August forecast and 15 percent above the 2008 crop. The increase from the 2008 crop was due to an increase in acreage and yield. Yield was forecast at 155 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from the August forecast. Acreage harvested for grain at 1.13 million acres was up 10,000 acres from the 2008 crop. The crop is maturing later than usual but adequate moisture is keeping yield prospects promising. If realized, this would be the highest yield and production on record for Kentucky. **U.S.** corn production was forecast at 13.0 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 7 percent higher than 2008. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields were expected to average 161.9 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from August and 8.0 bushels above last year. If realized, this would be the highest yield on record and production would be the second largest, behind 2007.

Soybean production by **Kentucky** farmers was forecast at 60.1 million bushels, up 5 percent from the August estimate and up 28 percent from the 2008 crop. The increase was due to both a larger harvested acreage and increased yield per acre. Yield was estimated at 42 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from August. Harvested acreage was forecast at 1.43 million acres, an increase of 50,000 acres from the previous year. Full season beans are maturing well. Some double crop beans have shown stress from recent dry weather. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record behind only 2006 for Kentucky. **U.S.** soybean production was forecast at a record high 3.25 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the August forecast and up 10 percent from last year. Based on September 1 conditions, yields were expected to average 42.3 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month and up 2.7 bushels from 2008. If realized, this would be the third highest yield on record.

Kentucky burley tobacco production for September 1 was forecast at 160.6 million pounds, up 2 percent from August and up 9 percent from the 2008 crop. The larger production was due to an increase in harvested acreage and yield. Burley yield at 2,200 pounds per acre was up 50 pounds from the previous month. Growing conditions have been excellent in most areas, and tobacco plants have shown good growth and leaf weight. Disease and pest problems have been minor in most areas. Production for the **Burley Producing States** totaled 213.4 million pounds, up 2 percent from the August forecast and 6 percent above last year. Yields were expected to average 2,160 pounds per acre, 53 pounds above last month and 93 pounds above a year ago.

Kentucky dark fire-cured tobacco was forecast at 31.6 million pounds, unchanged from the August forecast but down 17 percent from the 2008 crop. **Dark air-cured tobacco** was estimated at 15.5 million pounds, up 7 percent from August but down 25 percent from last year's crop.

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