



Crop News Release

In Cooperation with the Georgia Department of Agriculture

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GEORGIA 2007 CROP SUMMARY

Weather conditions for the 2007 crop year were hot and dry, according to the USDA, NASS, Georgia Field Office. The Spring was drier than normal over most of the State, and this trend continued through most of the Summer, as the State endured drought conditions. Overall, temperatures for the Spring and Summer were well above normal, with several July days reaching over 100 degrees. Showers became more frequent during late August and early September. These showers proved most beneficial to crops. The dry fall provided for excellent harvesting conditions. Considering the weather conditions during the growing season, yields for some crops were much better than earlier anticipated.

The **cotton** crop was much better than earlier thought for the 2007 crop year. Yield per harvested acre averaged 796 pounds per acre, 12 pounds more than the previous estimate, but 22 pounds less than last year's yield. Harvesting progressed normally. Planted acreage was set at 1.03 million acres. Harvested acres, at 995,000 acres, were 15,000 acres less than the previous estimate, and 375,000 acres less than last year. Georgia's production in 2007 is expected to total 1.65 million bales (480 lbs.), down 29 percent from the 2.33 million produced in 2006.

Georgia's **corn** crop for 2007 was better than originally thought. The yield was 130 bushels per harvested acre, tied with 2004 as the second highest yield on record. This yield was 12 bushels more than the previous estimate and 18 bushels more than last year's 112 bushels per acre. Corn planted for all purposes was 510,000 acres, 230,000 acres more than in 2006. Acreage harvested for grain was at 450,000 acres, 225,000 acres more than last year. Grain production was 58.5 million bushels, up 132 percent from 2006. Corn harvested for silage numbered 40,000 acres, the same as last year. Silage yield was 18 tons per acre. Corn that was abandoned or for 'other uses' was 20,000 acres.

Peanut production for Georgia was 1.64 billion pounds, 2 percent more than in 2006. The increase in production was a result of an increase in yields. Planted acres, at 530,000, were down 9 percent from last year and harvested acres, at 520,000, were down 10 percent from 2006. Yields averaged 3,150 pounds per acre, 370 pounds more than last year. Timely rains during the latter part of August and early September, plus lots of irrigation made for a much better crop than earlier thought. Digging was slowed due to a later maturing crop and dry soils.

Soybean production is set at 8.25 million bushels. This production is 136 percent more than last year. The increased in production can be attributed to a large increase in acreage, and better yields than year. Planted acres at 285,000, was up 84 percent from last year. Harvested acres at 275,000, was up 96 percent from 2006. Yield averaged 30 bushels per acre, five bushel per acre more than last year.

Tobacco production in 2007 was 39.8 million pounds compared with 30.1 million pounds in 2006. This production represents a 32 percent increase from last year. Yields averaged 2,150 pounds in 2007, compared with 1,770 pounds per acre in 2006. Acreage was 18,500 compared with 17,000 in 2006. Yields were better than expected due to less disease problems than in past years, timely rains and irrigation.

Sorghum acres planted for all purposes were 65,000 acres, compared to 40,000 acres last year. Harvested acres for grain were 45,000, up 19,000 acres from last year. Yield averaged 46 bushels per acre, 1 bushel per acre more than last year. Grain production totaled 2,070,000 bushels, up 77 percent from a year earlier. Sorghum harvested as silage was 17,000 acres, 6,000 acres more than last year. Silage yields averaged 13 tons per acre, up 2 tons from 2006.

Hay production in 2007 totaled 1.21 million tons, 3 percent more than in 2006. Yields averaged 1.80 tons per acre from all cuttings, the same as in 2006. The yield of 1.80 tons per acre is the lowest since 1986. Acreage harvested was 670,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from last year.

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U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Upland cotton production is estimated at 18.2 million 480-pound bales, up slightly from the December 1 forecast but down 13 percent from last year. The U.S. yield for upland cotton is estimated at 857 pounds per acre, up 7 pounds from last month and up 51 pounds from last year's yield. The yield will be the largest on record, surpassing the previous record high of 843 pounds per acre set in 2004. Harvested area, at 10.2 million acres, is down less than 1 percent from last month and 18 percent below last year. Upland planted area, estimated at 10.5 million acres, is 30 percent below last year. In the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia), producers battled extreme drought conditions during the early summer. By late June, planting was complete in the region. Drought conditions continued to plague producers throughout the fall causing the crop to develop ahead of normal in most areas. By the end of September, harvest was ahead of normal throughout the region except in Georgia, where harvest lagged behind throughout the season. Harvest was complete in the region by early December. Objective yield measurements in Georgia show boll counts to be the third largest in the last 5 years.

Corn for grain production in 2007 is estimated at 13.1 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November forecast but 24 percent above 2006. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 151.1 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels from the November forecast but 2.0 bushels above 2006. The 2007 yield estimate is the second highest on record, behind 2004, while production is the largest on record as producers harvested the most corn acres for grain since 1933.

Production of **peanuts** in 2007 is estimated at 3.74 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the November 1 forecast and 2006. Planted area, at 1.23 million acres, is down 1 percent from 2006 and represents the lowest planted acreage in the U.S. since 1915. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.20 million acres, down 1 percent from last year and the lowest since 1930. The U.S. yield is estimated at 3,130 pounds per acre, 217 pounds above the November forecast and up 267 pounds from 2006.

Soybean production in 2007 totals 2.59 billion bushels, down slightly from the November forecast and 19 percent below the record high production of 2006. The average yield per acre is estimated at 41.2 bushels, 0.1 bushel below the November forecast and 1.5 bushels below last year's yield. Harvested area is down 16 percent from 2006, to 62.8 million acres.

Sorghum grain production in 2007 is estimated at 505 million bushels, down 2 percent from the November forecast but 82 percent above 2006. Planted area is estimated at 7.72 million acres, up 18 percent from last year, and area harvested for grain, at 6.81 million acres, is up 38 percent from 2006. Average grain yield, at 74.2 bushels per acre, is down 2.6 bushels from the previous forecast but up 18 bushels from last year.

U.S. **tobacco** production in 2007 totaled 779 million pounds, up 10 percent from the October forecast and 7 percent above 2006. Growers harvested 356,000 acres in 2007, less than 1 percent above the previous forecast and up 5 percent from last year. Yield per acre averaged 2,187 pounds, a 187 pound increase from the October forecast and 41 pounds above 2006. Flue-cured production is estimated at 503 million pounds, 10 percent above the October 1 forecast and 13 percent above last year. Harvested acres totaled 223,000, down 1 percent from the previous forecast but 5 percent above 2006. Flue-cured yields averaged 2,257 pounds, an increase of 233 pounds from the October forecast and 159 pounds above a year ago. Despite drought like conditions in the south, flue-cured tobacco fared better than growers originally expected. Yields increased from a year ago in all flue-cured States, except Virginia.

All Hay production of dry hay for 2007 is estimated at 150 million tons, up 2 percent from the October 1 forecast and up 6 percent from the 2006 total. Area harvested, at 61.6 million acres, is down slightly from the October forecast but up 1 percent from 2006. The average yield, at 2.44 tons per acre, is up 0.05 ton from October and up 0.10 ton from the previous year.