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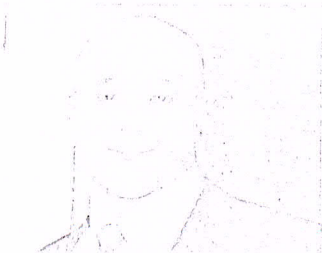
Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 27, 2016



# Markets

## USDA Forecasts Record Corn, Soybean

### AG COUNTS



KING WHETSTONE

Both U.S. corn and soybean growers are expected to harvest record crops this year, according to the Aug. 12 crop production forecast. U.S. corn production is forecast at 15.2 billion bushels, while soybean growers are expected to harvest 4.06 billion bushels.

Average corn yield is forecast at 175.1 bushels per acre, a record. Soybean yields are expected to average 48.9 bushels per acre, another record.

Wheat production is forecast at 2.32 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 2015, due primarily to winter wheat, which is up 21 percent from 2015. Wheat yield is forecast at 52.6 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from the previous year.

Pennsylvania — Corn production is forecast at 141 million bushels, up 2 percent from 2015. Based on conditions on Aug. 1, yields are expected to average 141 bushels per acre, 6 bushels below the 2015 average.

Oat production is forecast at 3.48 million bushels, 3 percent below last year. The oat yield is forecast at 58 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from the July 1 forecast, but up 3 bushels from last year's final yield.

Alfalfa production is forecast at 1.01 million tons, down 10 percent from 2015. Yields are expected to average 2.8 tons, up 0.2 ton from last year.

All other hay is forecast at 2.35 million tons, up 24 percent from 2015. Yields are expected to average 2.2 tons per acre, unchanged from last year.

Soybean production is forecast at 27.4 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 46 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last year.

Tobacco production is forecast at 18.6 million pounds, up 3 percent from 2015. Yield is expected to average 2,330 pounds, up 40 pounds from last year.

Apple production is forecast at 490 million pounds, down 6 percent from 2015, with peach production forecast at 16,500 tons, down 9 percent. Grape production was up 18 percent.

New York — Corn production is forecast at 92.4 million bushels, up 10 percent from 2015. Based on conditions on Aug. 1, yields are expected to average 140 bushels per acre, 3 bushels below the 2015 average.

Oat production is forecast at 4.48 million bushels, 93 percent above 2015. The oat yield is forecast at 64 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from the July 1 forecast and up 6 bushels from last year's final yield.

Alfalfa production is forecast at 759,000 tons, up 18 percent from 2015. Yields are expected to average 2.3 tons, unchanged from last year.

All other hay production is forecast at 1.62 million tons, down 10

percent from 2015. Yields are expected to average 1.8 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from last year.

Soybean production is forecast at 14.2 million bushels, up 10 percent from 2015. Yield is expected to average 40 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from last year.

Apple production is forecast at 1.2 billion pounds, down 12 percent from 2015, with peach production forecast at 1,600 tons, down 77 percent. Grape production was up 14 percent.

New Jersey — Soybean production is forecast at 4.02 million bushels, up nearly 22 percent from last year. Based on Aug. 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 41 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from the previous year.

Apple production is forecast at 20 million pounds, down 46 percent from last year. Peach production is forecast at 14,000 tons, down 34 percent from 2015.

Cranberry production totaled 588,000 barrels, down 1 percent from 2015. According to the Aug. 2 U.S. Drought Monitor map, New Jersey has been experiencing either abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions.

Maryland — Corn production is forecast at 68 million bushels, up 9 percent from 2015. Based on conditions as of Aug. 1, yields are expected to average 170 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above the 2015 average.

Soybean production is forecast at 25.4 million bushels, up 23 percent from 2015. Yield is expected to average 45 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last year.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 17.2 million bushels, down

## Production

You wouldn't settle for old  
genetics in your herd.



slightly from last year. Yield is forecast at 66 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from the July 1 forecast, but up 2 bushels from 2015.

Apple production is forecast at 39 million pounds, down 5 percent from last year. Peach production is forecast at 2,300 tons, down 40 percent from last year.

**Delaware** — Corn production is forecast at 31.7 million bushels, up slightly from 2015. Based on conditions as of Aug. 1, yields are forecast to average 193 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from the 2015 average.

Soybean production is forecast at 8.2 million bushels, up slightly from 2015. Yield is forecast to average 46 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from last year.

**New England** — Maine oat production is forecast at 1.56 million bushels, 33 percent below 2015. Based on crop conditions as of Aug. 1, the oat yield is forecast at 65 bushels per acre, unchanged from the July 1 forecast but down 15 bushels from last year's final yield.

Connecticut's apple production is forecast at 23 million pounds, down 8 percent from last year's crop. Apple production in Maine is forecast at 42 million pounds, up 18 percent from 2015. Massachusetts's production is forecast at 39 million pounds, down 10 percent from the previous year. Vermont's apple production is forecast at 31 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2015.

Massachusetts cranberry production totaled 2.07 million barrels, down 12 percent from 2015. According to the Aug. 2 U.S. Drought Monitor map, most of Massachusetts is experiencing severe drought.

#### **2015 Production Costs Down**

Farm production expenditures in the Atlantic Region are estimated at \$44.2 billion for 2015, down 8.3 percent from \$48.2 billion in 2014.

For the average farm in the region, all but one expenditure item decreased from the previous year.

Nationwide, 2015 farm expenditures were down 8.8 percent com-

pared with 2014. All five of the nation's regions showed a decrease, led by the Midwest.

The four largest expenditures for the Atlantic Region total nearly \$23.2 billion and account for 52.5 percent of total expenditures in 2015. These include feed, 22.7 percent; farm services, 10.9 percent; labor, 9.4 percent; and livestock, poultry and related expenses, 9.4 percent.

In 2015, expenditures for the Atlantic Region averaged \$107,715 per farm compared with \$116,530 in 2014, a drop of 7.6 percent.

On average, Atlantic Region farm operations spent \$24,497 on feed, \$10,140 on labor, \$11,749 on farm services, and \$10,116 on livestock, poultry and related expenses.

For 2014, farms spent an average of \$25,705 on feed, \$12,792 on farm services, \$10,906 on labor, and \$11,123 on livestock, poultry and related expenses.

The total fuel expense for the region was \$1.65 billion. Diesel, the largest subcomponent, was \$980 million, accounting for 59.4 percent.

Diesel expenditures were down 22.2 percent from the previous year. Gasoline was \$320 million, down 25.6 percent. LP gas was \$230 million, down 36.1 percent. Other fuel was \$120 million, down 14.3 percent from the previous year.

#### **Mushroom Sales Set Record**

Sales for the 2015-16 Pennsylvania agaricus mushroom crop are estimated at a record high \$570 million, up 3 percent from the previous season.

The volume of sales totaled 594 million pounds, up 2 percent from last season. The average price was \$0.96 per pound, up \$0.011 from the previous year.

*King Wheatstone is director of the Northeastern Regional Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. For the reports mentioned here, go to [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on the "Publications" tab.*