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RELEASED: August 11, 2023

## Large Kentucky Grain Crops are Forecasted

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its crop production report today from the August Agricultural Yield Survey conducted at the beginning of the month. Based on August 1 conditions, the report showed Kentucky corn, soybean and wheat production will be larger than a year ago. Soybean production is forecast to increase 5% from 2022, corn 28% and wheat 35% above last year.

“When weather cooperates, Kentucky farmers are capable of growing a tremendous amount of grain”, said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “These forecasts suggest the highest corn and wheat yields on record, the largest soybean production, and the second largest corn and wheat crops in history.”

**Corn** production in **Kentucky** is forecast at 270 million bushels, up 28% from the previous crop. Yield is estimated at 186 bushels per acre, up 30 bushels from the 2022 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.45 million acres, up 100,000 acres from 2022. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 15.1 billion bushels, up 10% from 2022. Yields are expected to average 175.1 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from 2022. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 86.3 million acres, but up 9% from 2022.

**Soybean** production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 104 million bushels, up 5% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 55.0 bushels per acre, up 4.0 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.89 million acres, down 50,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.21 billion bushels, down 2% from last year. Yields are expected to average 50.9 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 82.7 million acres, down 4% from 2022.

**Kentucky** farmers expect to harvest 40.5 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2023. The expected crop for 2023 would be up 35% from the previous year. Growers expect a yield of 88.0 bushels per acre, up 8.0 bushel from 2022, which would be a record high yield. Farmers expect to harvest 460,000 acres for grain. Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.23 billion bushels, up 11% from 2022. The United States yield is forecast at 48.1 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 25.5 million acres, up 9% from last year.

**Kentucky burley tobacco** production is forecast at 58.0 million pounds, up 15% from 2022. Yield is projected at 2,000 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from the 2022 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 29,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from last year's crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 66.0 million pounds, up 13% from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 33,430 acres, up 3% from 2022. Yields were expected to average 1,975 pounds per acre, up 167 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 22.3 million pounds, down 28% from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 12.7 million pounds, down 17% from last year.

Production of **all hay** by **Kentucky** farmers is forecast to be up from last year due to higher yields. **Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 330,000 tons, 17% below the 2022 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 4.68 million tons, up 11% from last year.