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RELEASED: June 28, 2024

Kentucky Growers Increase Soybean Acreage

Soybeans planted in Kentucky were estimated at a record high 2.05 million acres, up 220,000 acres from 2023. Acres harvested for grain, at 2.04 million acres, was 220,000 acres above acres a year ago. U.S. soybean planted area for 2024 was estimated at 86.1 million acres, up 3% from last year. Area for harvest, at 85.3 million acres, is up 4% from 2023.

Acreage planted to corn in Kentucky was estimated at 1.55 million acres, down 50,000 acres from 2023. Acres harvested for grain is estimated at 1.45 million acres, down 50,000 acres from last year. The U.S. corn planted for all purposes in 2024 was estimated at 91.5 million acres, down 3% from last year. Growers expect to harvest 83.4 million acres for grain, down 4% from last year.

Farmers in Kentucky intend to set an estimated 23,000 acres of burley tobacco for harvest. This was down 4,000 from the 2023 level. Dark fire-cured tobacco acreage set was estimated at 5,600 acres, down 700 acres from the previous year. Dark air-cured tobacco acreage was estimated at 3,200 acres, down 300 from a year ago. Burley producing states acreage for harvest was estimated at 25,000, 20% below last year.

Winter wheat seeded acreage in Kentucky was estimated at 560 thousand acres, 50,000 acres below the previous year. Acreage harvested for grain was estimated at 410 million acres, 50,000 acres below 2023. The U.S. Winter wheat planted area was estimated at 33.8 million acres, down 8% from 2023. Area harvested for grain was forecast at 25.8 million acres, up 5% from last year.

Alfalfa hay acreage in Kentucky was estimated at 80,000 acres, down 10,000 from the 2023 crop. All other hay was estimated at 2.03 million acres, up 50,000 from a year ago. The U.S. All hay acreage was estimated at 51.5 million acres, down 2% from 2023.