



News Release

Cooperating with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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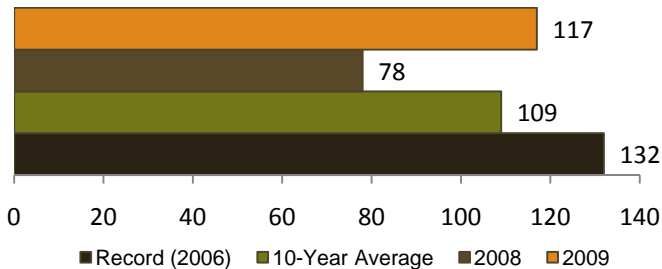
January 12, 2010

RECORD YIELDS SET FOR SEVERAL NORTH CAROLINA CROPS

Corn for Grain

- Yield is estimated at 117 bushels per acre, up 39 bushels from last year.
- Production is estimated to total 93.6 million bushels, 45% more than last year.
- Harvested acres are estimated at 800,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from 2008.

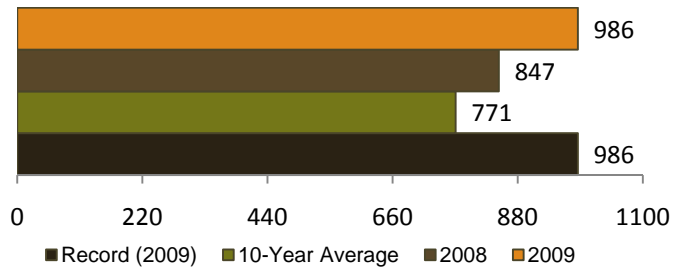
Corn for Grain Yield - (Bushels)



Cotton

- Yield is estimated at a record 986 pounds per acre, up from the final 2008 yield of 847 pounds per acre.
- Production is estimated at 760,000 bales, up 1% from last year's production of 755,000 bales.
- Harvested acres are estimated to total 370,000 compared with 428,000 acres harvested in 2008.

Upland Cotton Yield - (Pounds)

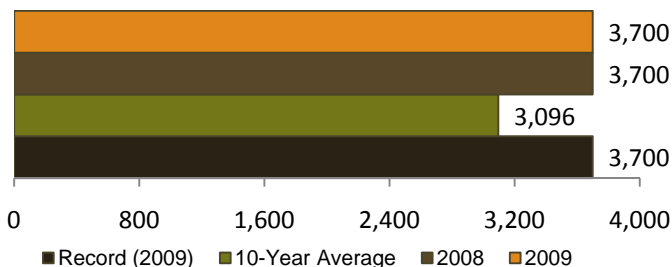


2009 Crop Weather: The year began with drought conditions in the Mountain Region and abnormally dry conditions in parts of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain Regions. By the end of 2009, the state was free from all drought classifications thanks to timely rains during the year and precipitation received from Tropical Storm Ida in November. Growing conditions throughout the year were very favorable for much of the state leading to record yields for a few crops. The state finished off the year with above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures for most of December, delaying soybean and cotton harvests.

Peanuts

- Yield per acre is estimated at 3,700 pounds, equal to the record set last year.
- Production is estimated at 244.2 million pounds, down 32% from last year's production.
- Harvested acres are estimated at 66,000 acres, down 31,000 acres compared to 2008.

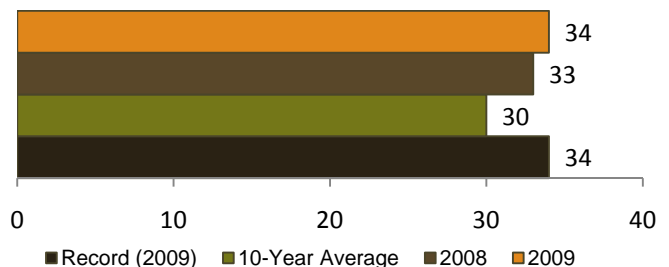
Peanut Yield - (Pounds)



Soybeans

- Yield is estimated to average 34 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year and equal to the record set in 2004.
- Production is estimated to total 60.2 million bushels, up 9% from last year.
- Harvested acres are estimated at 1.77 million acres, up 100,000 acres from 2008.

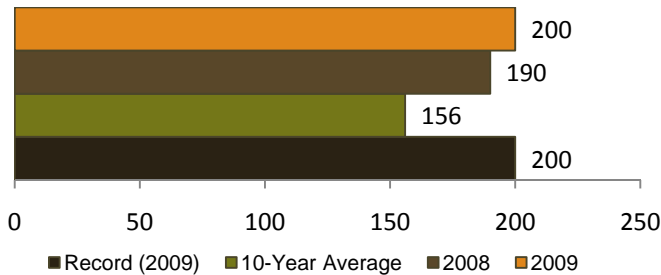
Soybean Yield - (Bushels)



Sweet Potato

- North Carolina farmers harvested 47,000 acres of sweet potatoes in 2009, up 1,000 acres from 2008.
- Yield averaged a record 200 cwt. per acre, breaking the previous record of 190 cwt. per acre set last year.
- Total production is a record 9.4 million cwt., 8% above last year's record of 8.7 million cwt.

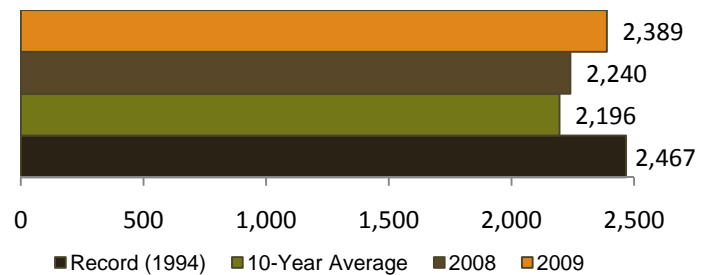
Sweet Potato Yield - (Hundredweight)



Tobacco

- North Carolina farmers harvested 177,400 acres of tobacco in 2009, up 2% from the previous year.
- Flue-Cured yield averaged 2,400 pounds per acre, while burley averaged 1,840 pounds per acre.
- Production was up 9% for flue-cured tobacco at 417.6 million pounds and up 12% for burley tobacco at 6.3 million pounds.

All Tobacco Yield - (Pounds)



NORTH CAROLINA CROPS: ACRES, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 2009

| Crops ¹ | Unit | Acres Harvested | | Yield | | Production | | Percent Change |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|---------|----------------|
| | | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | |
| | | <i>(Thousands)</i> | | | | <i>(Thousands)</i> | | <i>+/-</i> |
| Barley | Bu. | 14 | 19 | 71 | 60 | 994 | 1,140 | +15 |
| Corn for Grain | Bu. | 830 | 800 | 78 | 117 | 64,740 | 93,600 | +45 |
| Cotton: Upland ² | Lb. | 428 | 370 | 847 | 986 | 755 | 760 | +1 |
| Hay: All | Ton | 808 | 847 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1,622 | 1,957 | +21 |
| Hay: Alfalfa ³ | Ton | 8 | 7 | 2.7 | 3.6 | 22 | 25 | +14 |
| Hay: Other | Ton | 800 | 840 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1,600 | 1,932 | +21 |
| Oats | Bu. | 30 | 15 | 80 | 70 | 2,400 | 1,050 | -56 |
| Peanuts | Lb. | 97 | 66 | 3,700 | 3,700 | 358,900 | 244,200 | -32 |
| Potatoes: Irish | Cwt. | 14 | 15 | 180 | 225 | 2,520 | 3,375 | +34 |
| Soybeans for Beans | Bu. | 1,670 | 1,770 | 33 | 34 | 55,110 | 60,180 | +9 |
| Sweet Potatoes | Cwt. | 46 | 47 | 190 | 200 | 8,740 | 9,400 | +8 |
| Tobacco: All | Lb. | 174.3 | 177.4 | 2,240 | 2,389 | 390,360 | 423,856 | +9 |
| Tobacco: Flue-Cured | Lb. | 171.0 | 174.0 | 2,250 | 2,400 | 384,750 | 417,600 | +9 |
| Tobacco: Burley | Lb. | 3.3 | 3.4 | 1,700 | 1,840 | 5,610 | 6,256 | +12 |
| Wheat: Winter | Bu. | 720 | 600 | 60 | 49 | 43,200 | 29,400 | -32 |

¹ 2009 Revised. ² Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. ³ Includes alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures.

Winter Wheat Seedings - (Thousand Acres)

