

KENTUCKY CROP VALUES - 2000

Crops produced by Kentucky farmers during 2000 were valued at \$1.66 billion, up fractionally from the \$1.65 billion recorded during 1999. The value of the 2000 tobacco and fruit crops dropped significantly from the previous year, but all other crops showed increases except for wheat which was down slightly. Record soybean production nearly doubled the value of the drought plagued 1999 crop. Increased production of corn, sorghum and hay boosted the value of these crops. A sharp decline in the burley quota more than offset production increases for dark tobacco, while a late spring frost reduced apple and peach production. Compared to 1999, soybean value increased 90 percent, sorghum 31 percent, corn 22 percent, and hay 15 percent. The value of the barley crop increased 3 percent, and wheat was unchanged. The value of the tobacco crop decreased 28 percent, peaches 29 percent, and commercial apples 30 percent. Prices for the 2000 hay, corn and apple crops declined from the previous year, but prices for all other crops were higher than the 1999 levels.

Tobacco, hay, corn and soybeans accounted for more than 96 percent of the total value of all crops grown in Kentucky. Tobacco remained the number one crop produced in the State with a value of \$561.4

million or 34 percent of total crop value. Average price per pound was \$1.98, up six cents from 1999. Hay was second with nearly 30 percent of total crop value. Production increased 30 percent from the 1999 drought reduced crop, but prices decreased \$10.00 from the previous year and averaged \$79.00 per ton. Corn for grain generated 19 percent of total crop value. A 29 percent increase in production more than offset a 5 percent decline in average price. The 2000 average price for corn was \$2.00 per bushel and was the lowest season average price since 1986. Soybean value of production increased 90 percent from 1999 to \$223.2 million dollars or 13 percent of total crop value. Average price rose two cents to \$4.85 per bushel, while production increased 89 percent to a record high 46 million bushels. Wheat production generated 3 percent of total crop value.

The leading U.S. crops by value of production were corn, soybeans, all hay, all wheat, all cotton and all tobacco. Value of production increased from 1999 for all leading crops except tobacco. Reductions in quotas caused the value of tobacco production to decline. Tobacco, Kentucky's number one cash crop, accounted for 29 percent of the nations tobacco value.

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