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October 1 Crop Production Forecast

Corn production in **Virginia** was forecast at 36.1 million bushels, down 38 % from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 103.0 bushels per acre, down 54.0 bushels from the 2023 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 350,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2023. The **U.S.** corn production was forecast at 15.2 billion bushels, down 1% from 2023. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 183.8 bushels per acre, up 6.5 bushels from 2023. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 82.7 million acres, unchanged from the September forecast but down 4% from 2023.

Soybean production for **Virginia** is forecast at 26.4 million bushels, increased 22% from 2023. Yield was estimated at 44.0 bushels per acre, up 6.0 bushels from a year ago. **U.S.** soybean production was forecast at 4.58 billion bushels, up 10% from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 53.1 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 86.3 million acres, unchanged from September but up 5% from 2023.

Virginia cotton production is projected to be 190,000 bales, up 2% from last year. Cotton yields are forecast to average 1,013 pounds per acre, down 109 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 90,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from 2023. **U.S.** cotton production was forecast at 14.2 million bales, up 18% from 2023. Yields are forecast to average 789 pounds per acre, down 110 pounds from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 8.63 million acres, up 34% from the previous year.

Peanut farmers in **Virginia** anticipate harvesting 141 million pounds for 2024, up 1% from last year. Acres expected to be harvested total 30,000 acres, up 1,000 from last year. Producers expect a yield of 4,700 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from 2023.

Virginia flue-cured tobacco production was forecast at 25.8 million pounds, down 14% from 2023. Yield was projected at 2,000 pounds per acre, down 350 pounds from the 2023 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 12,900 acres, up 100 acres from last year's crop. **U.S. flue-cured** production was forecast at 248 million pounds, down 21% from last year. Flue-cured growers plan to harvest 129,900 acres, down 6% from 2023. Yields were expected to average 1,910 pounds per acre, down 373 pounds from last year.

Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 88,000 tons, 21% below the 2023 level. **Other hay** production was estimated at 2.31 million tons, down 2% from last year.