



News Release

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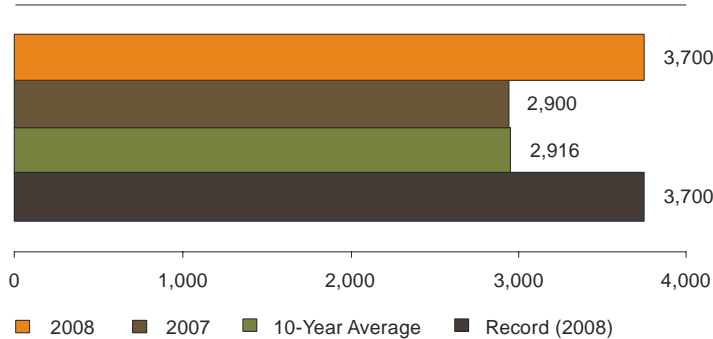
January 12, 2009

PEANUT & SWEETPOTATO RECORD YIELDS FOR NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS

Peanuts

- 97,000 acres of peanuts were harvested in 2008 compared to 90,000 acres harvested the previous year.
- At 3,700 pounds per acres, North Carolina peanut yield surpassed the 2004 record yield by 200 pounds per acre.
- Production at 358.9 million pounds was up 38% from the 261 million pounds produced in 2007.

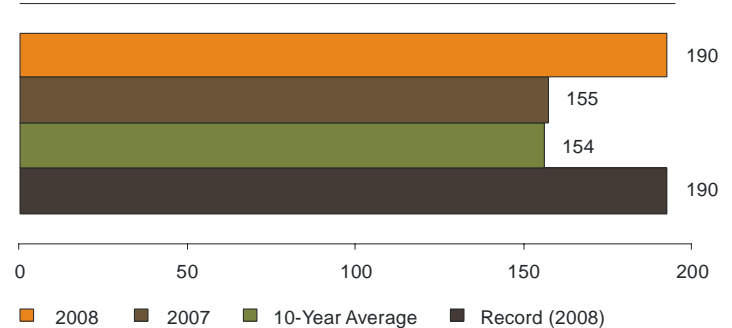
Peanut Yield - (Pounds)



Sweetpotatoes

- North Carolina farmers harvested 46,000 acres of sweetpotatoes in 2008, up 3,000 acres from 2007.
- Yield averaged a record 190 cwt per acre, 6% greater than the 2006 record of 180 cwt.
- Production of 8.74 million cwt was up 31% from the previous year and up 25% from the 2006 record of 7.02 million.

Sweetpotato Yield - (Hundredweight)

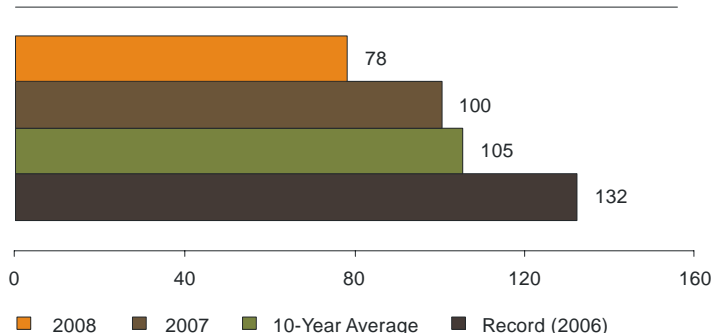


2008 Crop Weather: The 2008 year started off with a drought in many parts of the state. The spring brought favorable conditions for small grains with adequate rains and mild temperatures. Hot and dry conditions were prevalent during summer and affected the corn crop adversely during critical growing months. Hurricane Fay and Tropical Storm Hannah relieved some of the drought conditions in late August and early September. Adequate rain and a mild fall aided the remainder of the crops in the state with peanuts and sweetpotatoes having a record year for yield. Cotton harvest and small grain plantings were more than 90% complete by the first week of December. The year finished off with mild temperatures and rainy conditions.

Corn for Grain

- North Carolina farmers harvested 830,000 acres of corn in 2008 down 18% from 2007.
- Yield at 78 bushels per acre, was down 22 bushels from 2007 and the lowest since 1981.
- Production at 64.74 million bushels was down 36% from 2007.

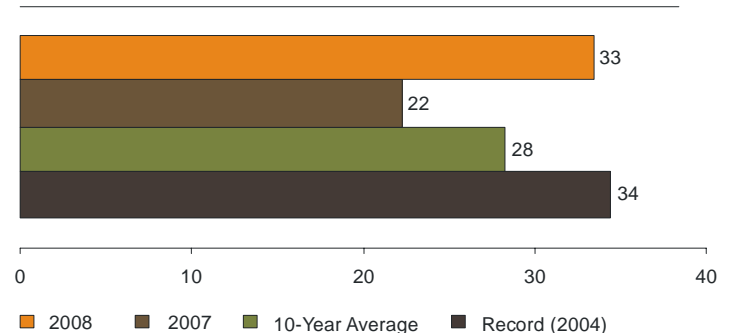
Corn For Grain Yield - (Bushels)



Soybeans

- North Carolina farmers harvested 1.67 million acres of soybeans in 2008, up 290,000 acres from the previous year.
- Yield averaged 33 bushels per acre, up 11 from 2007 and just 1 bushel lower than the 2004 record.
- 2008 production of 55.11 million bushels was 5% higher than the 1982 record of 52.5 million.

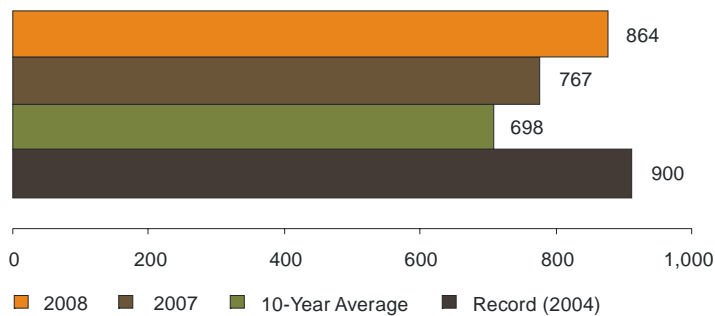
Soybean Yield - (Bushels)



Cotton

- Harvested acres totaled 428,000 compared to 490,000 acres in 2007.
- Yield at 864 pounds per acre, was up 13% from 2007 at 767 pounds per acre.
- Production at 770,000 bales was down 2% from the 2007 production of 783,000 bales.

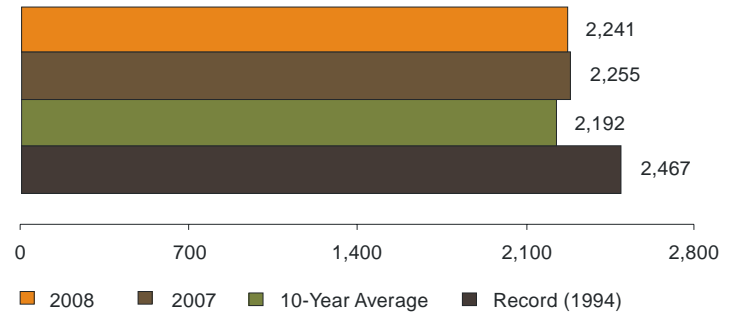
Upland Cotton Yield - (Pounds)



Tobacco

- North Carolina farmers harvested 174,000 acres of tobacco in 2008, up 4,000 acres from the previous year.
- Flue-Cured yield averaged 2,250 pounds per acre, while burley averaged 1,700 pounds per acre.
- Production was up 2% for flue-cured tobacco at 384.8 million pounds, but down 23% for burley at 5.1 million pounds.

All Tobacco Yield - (Pounds)



ACRES, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 2008

Crops ¹	Unit	Harvested		Yield		Production		Percent Change
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
		<i>Thousand Acres</i>				<i>Thousands</i>		<i>+/-</i>
Barley	Bu.	14	14	49	71	686	994	+45
Corn for Grain	Bu.	1,010	830	100	78	101,000	64,740	-36
Cotton: Upland ²	Bls.	490	428	767	864	783	770	-2
Hay: All	Ton	699	808	1.5	2.0	1,050	1,622	+54
Hay: Alfalfa ³	Ton	9	8	1.7	2.7	15	22	+47
Hay: Other	Ton	690	800	1.5	2.0	1,035	1,600	+55
Oats	Bu.	15	30	55	80	825	2,400	+191
Peanuts	Lb.	90	97	2,900	3,700	261,000	358,900	+38
Potatoes, Irish	Cwt.	15	14	186	180	2,700	2,520	-7
Sorghum for Grain	Bu.	8	13	55	56	440	728	+65
Soybeans for Beans	Bu.	1,380	1,670	22	33	30,360	55,110	+82
Sweetpotatoes	Cwt.	43	46	155	190	6,665	8,740	+31
Tobacco: All	Lb.	170	174	2,255	2,241	383,420	389,850	+2
Tobacco: Flue-cured	Lb.	166	171	2,270	2,250	376,820	384,750	+2
Tobacco: Burley	Lb.	4	3	1,650	1,700	6,600	5,100	-23
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	500	720	40	60	20,000	43,200	+116

¹ 2007 Revised. ² Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. ³ Includes alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures.

Winter Wheat - (Acres Planted - Thousands)

