FARMERS  
10/24/16  
"Everyone of us that's not a farmer is not a farmer because we have farmers," a recent quote from Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.   
  
There are not many farmers/ranchers among us all across the U.S.A., fewer than 2% of american's are classified as farmers/ranchers and are involved in the many different phases of agriculture. Today, 85% of whats raised on america's farms/ranches is raised by less than 0.1% of our farmers/ranchers.  
  
We are most thankful for our remarkable american food system, which is the challenge that all american farmers/ranchers have accepted responsibility -- raising more food, fiber, fuel and shelter using less natural resources: water, soil/land, air, grass, minerals, trees and wildlife.  Because many of us are two or three, possibly more generations removed from the farm/ranch, sometimes we do not understand agricultural methods used to raise our food.   
  
A few of the 2016 estimated crop yields, as of September, by the U.S.D.A. are: Corn at 174.7 bushels per acre for a total crop of 15.1 billion bushels;   Soybeans 4.27 billion bushel lost for an average yield of 51.4 bushels per acre;  Rice at 237.14 million cwts, Hundred weights.  
  
Tennessee crop yields are estimated at 150 bushels per acre for corn;  49 bushels for soybeans and 1018 pounds for cotton per acre.  
  
Red meat and poultry supplies have gained some 5.5% through 2016.  U.S. Beef is + 4.7% or 1.14 billion pounds;  pork is + 0.4% at 471 million pounds and poultry is + 3.1% or 1.4 billion pounds more during 2016 when compared to 2015.  The estimated meat production, by U.S.D.A., is to reach 218 pounds per person by 2018.  
  
These are only a few examples of our remarkable american food system. Ya see, it requires lots of food for all american families. The amazing american farmer/rancher will do the same for the 2017 season, raise a safe, affordable supply of food, fuel, fiber and shelter to fill the shelves of the grocery store and other food suppliers where american families  shop for food.  
  
Enjoy your meals!!!!!!  
  
For other articles of interest  
1-[We Are Farmers](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/we_are_farmers.docx)  
2-[Why Agriculture Is Important](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/why_is_agriculture_important.docx)  
3- [Where Your Food Dollar Goes](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/who_gets_your_food_dollar.docx)  
4- [Tennessee Agricultures Top Ten](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/tennessee_agriculture_top_ten_135_427_thoughts.docx)