

Crops Review 2006

A prolonged year of drought and hot weather conditions in 2006 resulted in low yields for the major row crops and hay. As a result **hay stocks** decreased to 264,000 tons, down 92,000 tons from 2005. Hay yield decreased to 2.0 tons per acre, down from 2.7 tons in 2005. Cattle growers and other livestock producers continue to feel the impact of the hay shortage. **Hay production** came in at 1.44 million tons from 720,000 harvested acres, the lowest production level since year 2000. **Corn** yields averaged 47 bushels below last year's 119 bushels per acre, and was 51 bushels below the record year set in 2004. This was the lowest yield and production since 2000. Corn production decreased 50 percent from last year. Several crops yielded better than expected, one being the **peanut** crop yield which varied from field to field. Despite suffering from hot weather and infrequent scattered showers, the peanut crop produced a yield of 2,500 pounds per acre, down 250 pounds from last year. Production came in at 407.5 million pounds, down from 613.2 million pounds last year. **Cotton** production is estimated at 675,000 bales from 560,000 harvested acres. Cotton yield and quality varied greatly because of the early and late planted crop across the state. Alabama's yield is set at 579 lint pounds per acre, down 168 pounds from 2005. This yield is 216 pounds below the record set in 1985. **Soybean** yield is 20 bushels per acre, down 13 bushels from 2005 and 16 bushels below the record set in 2003. Soybean producers experienced some insect pressure and very little Asian Rust this year. Production of soybeans is 3.0 million bushels compared to 4.8 million bushels in 2005. Irish potato growers yielded 150 cwt., same as last year. Surprisingly, **sweet potato** yields increased slightly which was set at 160 cwt., compared to 150 cwt., in 2005 from 2,300 harvested acres. Alabama's **wheat** seedings for 2007 was set at 120,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from 2006.

Normal Crop Progress

Crop	Planting Begins	Planting Ends	Harvest Begins	Harvest Ends
Corn	Mid-March	Early June	Late July	Early Nov
Cotton	Early April	Mid-June	Mid-September	Mid-December
Hay, first Cutting	---	---	Early May	Mid-July
Peaches	---	---	Mid-May	Mid-July
Peanuts	Late April	Mid-June	Early September	Early November
Pecans	---	---	Early October	Mid-December
Spring Potatoes	Mid-January	Mid-March	Early May	Early July
Summer Potatoes	Early March	Early April	Early July	Late August
Sweet Potatoes (South)	Mid-March	Late June	Mid-July	Early-November
Sweet Potatoes (North)	Mid-May	Early July	Mid-September	Late October
Soybeans	Late April	Early July	Late September	Mid-December
Wheat	Early October	Late-November	Mid-May	Mid-July