



ALABAMA NEWS RELEASE



BILL WEAVER, DIRECTOR
USDA, NASS, ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE

RON SPARKS, COMMISSIONER
ALABAMA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

PO Box 240578, MONTGOMERY, AL 36124-0578

● (800) 832.4181

● VISIT OUR website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/al>

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John Dasher
Agricultural Statistician

March 1, 2008 Prospective Crops Planting

The Alabama Statistics Service March 1, 2008 Agriculture Survey contacted approximately 1,050 farmers and ranchers to determine planting acreage intentions for the 2008 growing season. **Soybeans** forecasted planting for 2008 leads the way with 350,000 acres, an 84 percent increase. The highest planted acres since 1997. **Peanuts** projected planting followed with a 13 percent increase above last year. Seeding of Winter Wheat and Oats also forecasted a substantial increase. **Winter wheat** seeded acres increased 67 percent over last year's seeded crop due to higher prices and short supply. **Oats** seeding acreage increased 10,000 acres, reaching a total of 45,000 seeded acres The **corn** crop decreased 29 percent below last year to 240,000 acres influenced by high fertilizer prices. Alabama's four leading row crops showed a projected 2 percent decrease from last year while cotton acreage decreased 48 percent from 2006. **Cotton** acres intentions for 2008 was 300,000 down 25 percent from last year, the lowest since 1983. **Hay** acreage forecasted for harvest at 780,000 acres, down 2 percent from last year, and up 8 percent from 2006. **Sorghum** growers expected to plant 10,000 acres, down 17 percent from last year. **Sweet potatoes** intentions were 2,700 acres, up 200 acres from last year. **Director, Bill Weaver**, commented that the "March 1 survey reflected the impact of higher input costs for 2008. In response to last year's drought, some farmers intended to increase crop acreage which potentially will yield higher profits with less labor. Improved weather conditions, rainfall and farm policies will provide an optimistic outlook for planting additional acreage." The Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service will conduct the June Agriculture Survey to determine the actual acreage planted for each crop.

Alabama and United States: Prospective Plantings for 2008

Crop	Alabama				United States			
	2006	2007	Indicated 2008	2008 as Percent of 2007	2006	2007	Indicated 2008	2008 as Percent of 2007
	- 1,000 Acres Planted -				- Percent -			
Cotton	575	400	300	75	15,274	10,830	9,390	87
Corn	200	340	240	71	78,327	93,600	86,014	92
Soybeans	160	190	350	184	75,522	63,631	74,793	118
Peanuts	165	160	180	113	1,243	1,230	1,430	116
Grain Sorghum	10	12	10	83	6,522	7,718	7,415	96
Winter Wheat 1/	100	120	200	167	40,575	44,987	46,840	104
Hay 2/	720	800	780	98	60,927	61,625	60,583	98
Oats	50	45	50	111	4,168	3,760	3,420	91
Sweet Potatoes	2.4	2.5	2.7	108	95.2	100.6	103.8	103

1/ Planted previous fall. 2/ Acres for harvest.

United States Crop Acreage

Five Year Comparison (2004-2008)

Million Acres

