



# ALABAMA FARM FACTS

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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Issue 7 Contains: ● June Acreage ● July Peach Production ● July 1 Potato Forecast

## JUNE 1, 2007 CROP ACREAGE

Alabama Statistical Office released the results based on responses from farmers surveyed throughout the state in June. Severe drought prevailed across the state. As of June 4, 2007, average crop condition for **corn**, **cotton** and **soybeans** was 33 percent very poor, 39 percent poor, and 28 percent mostly fair to good. Alabama's soil moisture condition was rated 71 percent very short and 29 percent mostly short to adequate. Planted area for the four major crops (**corn**, **cotton**, **peanuts**, and **soybeans**) totaled 1,030,000 acres, 70,000 acres below 2006 and the intentions set as of March 2007.

**Peanut** acres are set at 150,000 acres, a 15,000 acre decrease from 2006. Dry weather conditions caused many producers to plant late or not at all. Peanut condition was 67 very poor to poor, with 6 percent of the crop pegging. **Corn** planted acres are estimated at 300,000, up 100,000 from 2006. Dry weather caused the non-irrigated corn crop to deteriorate, resulting in farmers abandoning entire fields in some parts of the state. **Cotton** acres at 400,000 decreased 175,000 from 2006 due to low prices and ethanol interest which caused acreage shifting to corn and soybeans. Cotton condition was 76 percent very poor to poor and 23 percent mostly fair to good, with 30 percent of the crop squaring. **Soybeans** increased 20,000 acres from last year's crop bringing the planted acres to 180,000. The soybean crop was 88 percent very poor to poor and 12 percent mostly fair to good. Significant rains are needed to fill soybean pods and continue growth development. Soybeans planted are 91 percent complete. The **wheat** crop has been harvested and yields were better than expected after experiencing the damage from the Easter weekend freeze.

Kevin Pautler, Deputy Director, stated that the results from the June surveys show how producers have changed their planting intentions based on weather conditions, commodity prices, and March planting intentions report.

### Alabama and United States: June Acreage for 2007

Crop	Alabama				United States			
	2006	Indicated 2007	2007 as Percent of 2006	2007 Harvested	2006	Indicated 2007	2007 as Percent of 2006	2007 Harvested
	1,000 Acres Planted			1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres Planted		Percent	1,000 Acres
<b>Cotton</b>	575	400	70	-	15,274	11,058	72	-
<b>Corn</b>	200	300	150	240	78,327	92,888	119	85,418
<b>Soybeans</b>	160	180	113	170	75,522	64,081	85	63,285
<b>Peanuts</b>	165	150	91	147	1,243	1,187	95	1,158
<b>Grain Sorghum</b>	10	8	80	4	6,522	7,765	119	6,698
<b>Winter Wheat 1/</b>	100	120	120	80	40,575	45,136	111	37,588
<b>Hay 2/</b>	720	800	111	-	60,807	61,789	102	-
<b>Oats</b>	50	50	100	20	4,168	3,860	93	1,612
<b>Sweet Potatoes</b>	2.4	2.2	92	2.1	95.2	96.5	101	93.2

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

## Crop Production Forecasts

Beginning around August 1, we will start contacting a sample of row crop farmers for their expert opinion of this year's crop yields for cotton, corn, soybeans and peanuts. State and National production forecasts will be published August 10 with follow-up surveys scheduled around September 1, October 1 and November 1 to update crop potential throughout the season. If you are selected in the survey, please report promptly. You will receive the survey results.

### July 1, 2007 Peach Production Forecast

Alabama peach growers expected a bumper crop until hit with severe freeze during Easter weekend. As of July 1, peach growers expect to produce 6,000 tons of peaches, down 3,000 tons from last year. This forecast will be the lowest since the 2003 total of 4,500 tons. The 2007 peach crop has been under stress from drought conditions causing fruit to mature earlier. Many peach growers lost their entire crop, while some orchard growers took precautionary measures to limit damages. The current forecast reflects total production that would be harvested under current conditions. Estimates later in the season will measure utilized production which in the last three years averaged 80 percent of total production. Georgia's peach crop is forecast at 13,000 tons, down 28,000 tons from last year. The South Carolina crop is forecast at 8,000 tons, down 52,000 tons from last year. California ranks number one with 390,000 tons, up 37,000 tons from last year.

### July 1, 2007 Summer Potatoes Forecast

Alabama potato growers are forecasted to produce 168,000 cwt. from 1,400 acres, down 200 acres for last year. Growers forecasted a yield of 120 cwt., down 30 cwt. from last year.

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