



# ALABAMA FARM FACTS

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



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

## JUNE 1, 2008 CROP ACREAGE

Alabama Statistical Office released the results based on 1228 responses from farmers surveyed throughout the state in June. Planting conditions during 2008 had been the most favorable since 2005 due to adequate rainfall across the state. As of June 8, 2008, average crop condition for **corn**, **cotton**, **soybeans** and **peanuts** was 3 percent poor, and 32 percent fair, 60 percent good and 5 percent excellent. Alabama's soil moisture condition was rated 9 percent very short and 34 percent mostly short and 56 percent mostly adequate to 1 excellent. Planted area for the four major crops (**corn**, **cotton**, **peanuts**, and **soybeans**) totaled 1,110,000 acres, 20,000 acres above 2007.

**Wheat** seeded acres reached the highest level since 1990 at 240,000 acres, a 120,000 acre increase over the previous year. **Peanut** acres are set at 220,000 acres, a 60,000 acres increase from 2007 the highest since 1993. Peanut condition was 61 percent mostly fair to poor and 39 percent mostly good to excellent, with 9 percent remaining to be planted. **Corn** planted acres are estimated at 250,000, down 90,000 from 2007 the lowest since 1998. High cost for inputs for corn especially nitrogen caused farmers to hold off planting. **Cotton** acres at 310,000 decreased 90,000 from 2007 due to low prices relative to other crops which caused acreage shifting to wheat, peanuts and soybeans. Cotton condition was 38 percent mostly fair to poor and 62 percent mostly good to excellent with 3 percent of the crop remaining to be planted. **Soybeans** increased 140,000 acres from last year's crop bringing the planted acres to 330,000 the highest since 1998. The soybean crop was 13 percent mostly fair to poor and 87 percent mostly good to excellent. Above average rainfall has increased optimism for farmers this year with higher prices and good conditions. As of June 8, 2008 soybeans planting was 67 percent completed 15 percent behind last year.

Bill Weaver, 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 2008

Crop	Alabama				United States			
	2007	Indicated 2008	2008 as Percent of 2007	2008 Harvested	2007	Indicated 2008	2008 as Percent of 2007	2008 Harvested
	1,000 Acres Planted		Percent	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres Planted		Percent	1,000 Acres
<b>Cotton</b>	400	310	78	-	10,827	9,246	85	-
<b>Corn</b>	340	250	74	230	93,600	87,327	93	78,940
<b>Soybeans</b>	190	330	174	310	63,631	74,533	117	72,121
<b>Peanuts</b>	160	220	138	216	1,230	1,461	119	1,426
<b>Grain Sorghum</b>	12	12	100	8	7,718	7,271	94	6,405
<b>Winter Wheat 1/</b>	120	240	200	200	44,987	46,605	104	40,252
<b>Hay 2/</b>	800	850	106	-	61,625	60,439	98	-
<b>Oats</b>	45	45	100	20	3,760	3,467	92	1,443
<b>Sweet Potatoes</b>	2.5	2.8	112	2.7	100.6	104.1	103	100.8

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 12 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, 2008 Peach Production Forecast

Alabama's peach orchards received an adequate number of chill hours during the past winter. Many trees were in full bloom when a late freeze occurred at the end of March. The amount of damage that orchards suffered differed drastically depending on location. As of July 1, peach growers expected to produce 10,000 tons of peaches, up 7,000 tons from last year. If realized, this production will be the most since the 2005 when growers produced 12,000 tons of peaches. Disease pressure from brown rot increased during the month of June because more rainfall was received. Insect pressure from plum curculio, Japanese beetles, leaf-footed bugs, and stink bugs has been relatively low. Some orchards suffered minor hail damage from strong thunderstorms that have passed through the state. 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 74 percent of total production. Georgia's peach crop is forecast at 35,000 tons, up 22,000 tons from last year. The South Carolina crop is forecast at 55,000 tons, up 42,500 tons from last year. California ranks number one with 430,000 tons, down 16,000 tons from last year.

### July 1, 2008 Summer Potatoes Forecast

Alabama potato growers are forecasted to produce 195,000 cwt. from 1,300 acres, down 200 acres for last year. Growers forecasted a yield of 150 cwt., up 10 cwt. from last year.

