



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Crop Production Report
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Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture
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This report contains the results from the *2008 October Ag Yield and Objective Yield Surveys*. The data are also posted on our Web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report at the Internet address above. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaires and interviews for these surveys, and to those cotton and soybean producers who allowed objective measurements to be taken in their fields.

**Second Largest Corn and Soybean Crops in Arkansas History Forecasted
2008 Soybean Yield Could Tie Record High**

Corn: Corn for grain production for the state is forecast at 70.4 million bushels, down 29 percent from 2007. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average 160 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last month's forecast and down 8 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield will be the second largest on record. Area planted to corn in 2008 is 450,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from June 2008 and down 160,000 acres from last year. Producers expect to harvest 440,000 acres of corn for grain, down 25 percent from 2007.

Cotton: All cotton production is forecast at 1.5 million 480-pound bales, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but down 21 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 1,125 pounds per harvested acre, unchanged from last month's forecast but up 54 pounds from 2007. If realized, this will be the highest cotton yield on record for Arkansas. Harvested area is estimated at 640,000 acres, down 25 percent from 2007.

Hay: All hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 2.78 million tons, down 6 percent from 2007. Based on conditions as of October 1, 2008, yield is expected to average 2 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but up 0.1 ton from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.39 million acres of all hay, excluding alfalfa, down 11 percent from 2007.

Rice: The 2008 total rice production for the state is forecast at 92.8 million hundredweight (cwt), down 4 percent from the September 1 forecast and down 2 percent from last year's production. Based on conditions as of October 1, the all rice yield for 2008 is forecast at 6,900 pounds per acre, down 300 pounds from the September 1 forecast and down 230 pounds from last year's yield. Producers expect to harvest 1.35 million acres of rice, up 2 percent from 2007.

Sorghum: Sorghum for grain production in 2008 is forecast at 10.8 million bushels, down 20 percent from the September 1 forecast and down 47 percent from a year ago. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 90 bushels per acre, down 7 bushels from the September 1 forecast and down 4 bushels per acre from last year. If realized, this will be the second largest yield on record, behind only last year's record yield of 94 bushels. Area planted to sorghum in 2008 is 130,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from June 2008 and down 95,000 acres from 2007. Area for grain harvest, at 120,000 acres, is down 14 percent from June 2008 and down 44 percent from 2007.

Soybeans: Soybean production in 2008 for Arkansas is forecast at 127 million bushels, up 25 percent from a year ago. If realized, this will be the largest soybean crop since 1979 and the second largest in Arkansas history. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 39 bushels per acre, up a bushel from last month's forecast and 3 bushels per acre more than last year. If realized, this will match the largest yield on record, set in 2004. Acreage planted to soybeans for 2008 is 3.3 million, up 100,000 acres from June 2008 and up 450,000 acres from 2007. Area for harvest, at 3.25 million acres, is up 15 percent from 2007.

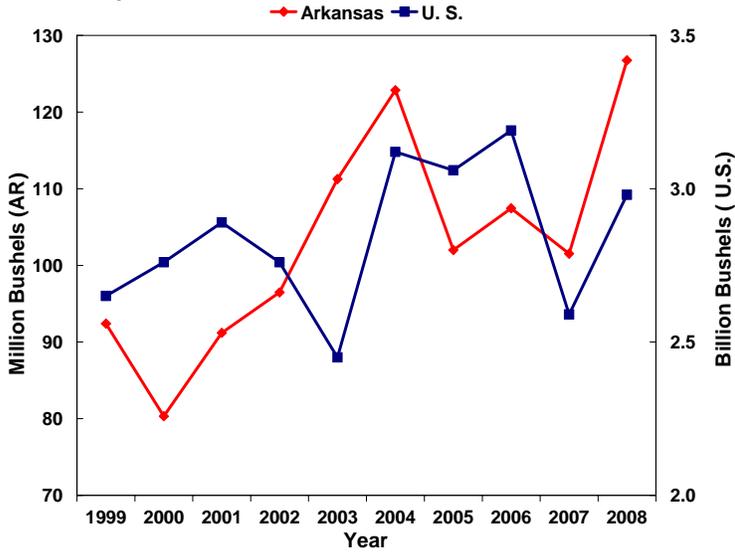
**Area Harvested, Yield, and Production,
Arkansas and U.S., 2007 and Forecasted October 1, 2008**

Crop	Unit	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
		1,000 Acres		Per Acre		1,000 Units	
Arkansas							
Corn for Grain	Bushels	590	440	168.0	160.0	99,120	70,400
Cotton, All	¹	850	640	1,071	1,125	1,896	1,500
Hay, excluding Alfalfa	Tons	1,560	1,390	1.90	2.00	2,964	2,780
Rice, All	²	1,325	1,345	7,130	6,900	94,487	92,805
Sorghum for Grain	Bushels	215	120	94.0	90.0	20,210	10,800
Soybeans for Beans	Bushels	2,820	3,250	36.0	39.0	101,520	126,750
United States							
Corn for Grain	Bushels	86,542	79,197	151.1	154.0	13,073,893	12,199,908
Cotton, All	¹	10,489.1	7,755.0	879	849	19,206.9	13,711.0
Hay, excluding Alfalfa	Tons	39,955	39,661	1.95	1.99	77,729	79,076
Rice, All	²	2,748	2,924	7,185	6,982	197,456	204,141
Sorghum for Grain	Bushels	6,805	7,236	74.2	64.1	504,993	464,186
Soybeans for Beans	Bushels	64,141	75,479	41.7	39.5	2,675,822	2,983,023

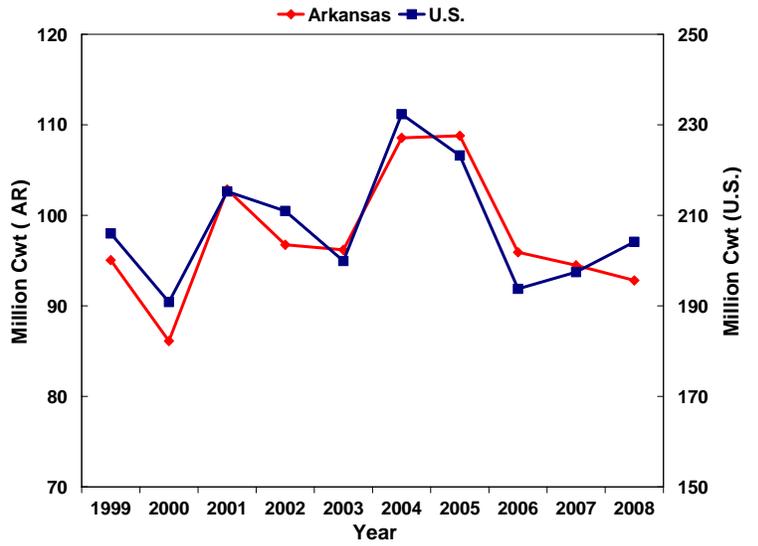
¹ Cotton yield is reported in pounds per acre and production is reported in 480 pound bales.

² Rice yield is reported in pounds and production is reported in hundredweight (cwt).

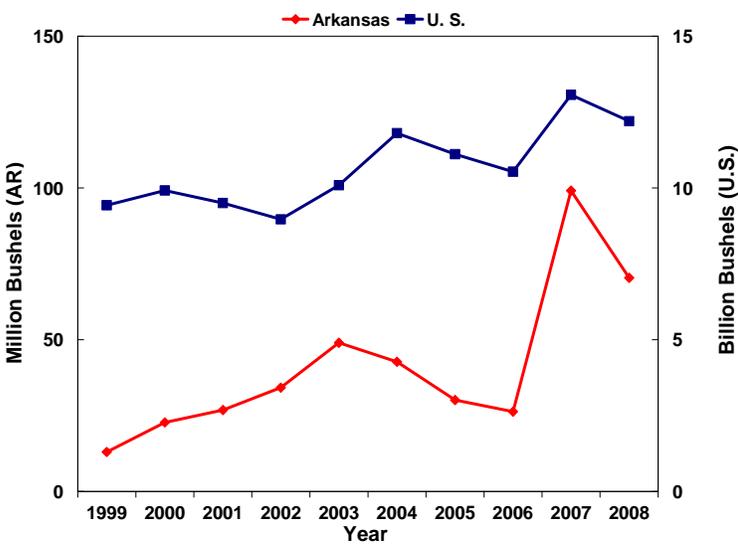
Soybean Production, Arkansas and U.S., 1999-2008¹



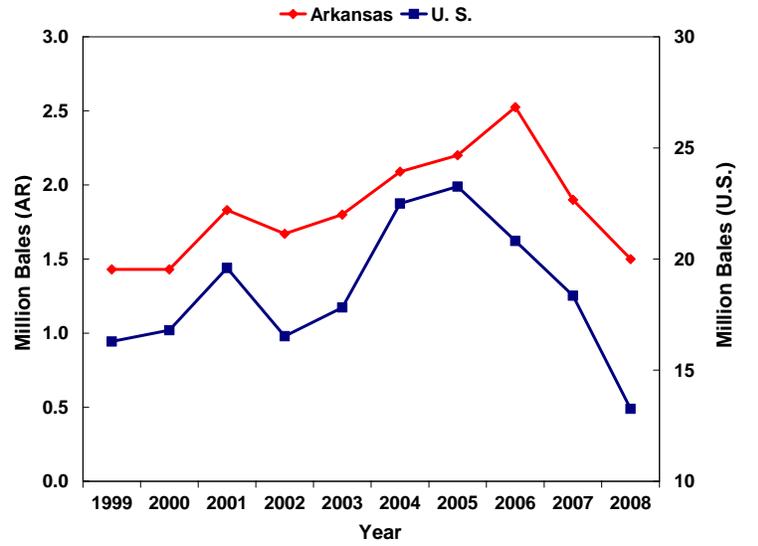
Rice Production, Arkansas and U.S., 1999-2008¹



Corn Production, Arkansas and U.S., 1999-2008¹



Upland Cotton Production, Arkansas and U.S., 1999-2008¹



¹ Forecasted production for 2008 as of October 1, 2008.