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FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

September 13, 2002

FLORIDA

FLORIDA: Frequent scattered showers during August interrupted some hay harvesting and flooded a few cotton and peanut fields. However, producers also irrigated some acreage in drier localities. Weed and worm populations escalated rapidly in wetter areas with many growers spraying for the control of armyworms in hay fields. Growers combated fall armyworms, southern armyworms, velvet bean caterpillars and corn ear worms in some peanut fields. Peanut digging began after mid-month as producers started to harvest early maturing varieties. Insect infestations remained fairly low in cotton fields with producers spraying for the control of southern armyworms and other pests. Aphid and white fly populations in cotton fields increased by late month. Oldest cotton fields bloomed in early August with bolls opening and growers defoliating some fields in early September. Corn harvesting was active during August with some yields falling below normal due to southern leaf blight setting in before maturation. Tobacco producers finished pulling by about mid-month.

PEANUTS: Production is expected to total 266,800,000 pounds, up 12 percent or 27,600,000 pounds from the previous forecast of 239,200,000 pounds, and up nearly seven percent or 16,700,000 pounds from the 250,100,000 pounds produced in 2001. Yield is set

at 2,900 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds or almost 12 percent from the August estimate of 2,600 pounds per acre. Last year, yield averaged 3,050 pounds per acre. Acreage to be harvested remains unchanged from the August estimate and is set at 92,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the 82,000 acres picked in 2001.

SUGARCANE: Acres to be cut are set at 455,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from the August forecast of 453,000 acres but down 10,000 acres from the 465,000 acres harvested last year. Yield is expected to average 36.4 tons per acre, down over a half ton from the previous estimate of 37 tons per acre but up 1.3 tons from the 35.1 tons per acre averaged for the 2001-02 crop. Production calculates to 16,562,000 tons, down one percent or 99,000 tons from the August figure of 16,761,000 tons. This compares to the 16,338,000 tons produced last year.

TOBACCO: Growers harvested 4,800 acres, up 300 acres from the 4,500 acres pulled last year. Yield averaged 2,800 pounds per acre versus 2,600 pounds per acre averaged in 2001. Production is set at 13,440,000 pounds compared with 11,700,000 pounds produced last year.

UNITED STATES

PEANUTS: Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.32 billion pounds, down 4 percent from last month's level and 8 percent below last year. Expected acreage for harvest, at 819,500 acres, is down 4 percent from last month, but up 2 percent from the previous year. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 2,832 pounds per acre, 3 pounds below August and 303 pounds lower than 2001. As of September 1, peanuts in Alabama were rated 83 percent fair to good. Florida peanuts were rated 100 percent fair to good on this date, and Georgia peanuts were rated 71 percent fair to good.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at 35.3 million tons, 1 percent below the August 1 forecast but 2 percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 1.02 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2002 crop year, up fractionally from last month but slightly lower than last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 34.4 tons per acre, 0.3 ton below August 1 but 0.8 ton above 2001. Frequent rains provided adequate moisture to support growth in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas during August. In Hawaii, favorably dry weather aided harvest, but progress remained behind schedule due to earlier rain delays.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO: Production is expected to total 522 million pounds, 2 percent below last month and down 10 percent from 2001. Growers plan to harvest 248,800 acres in 2002, up 4 percent from last year. Yields are forecast to average 2,098 pounds per acre, 46 pounds below the August forecast and 334 pounds less than the previous year. Yields in the Eastern Belt region of North Carolina, where over 50 percent of the State's tobacco is grown, decreased from the August forecast due to continued drought conditions.

COTTON: Production is forecast at 18.1 million 480-pound bales, down 2 percent from last month and 11 percent below last year's record high production. Yield is expected to average 675 pounds per acre, the same as last month. The reduced production is due primarily to reduced harvested acreage in Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Texas and lower yields along the Atlantic Coast. In the Southeastern States, unfavorably dry weather and above

normal temperatures promoted development ahead of average, resulting in bolls opening well ahead of the 5-year average. Due to the continued hot, dry conditions, crop ratings deteriorated significantly. Only 26 percent of North Carolina's acreage was considered in good to excellent condition compared to 57 percent a month ago. For Georgia and Virginia, approximately a third of the acreage was rated good to excellent compared to half of the acreage in early August. These hot, dry conditions led to a 7 percent decrease in production.

CORN: Production is forecast at 8.85 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from last month and down 7 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 125.4 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from August but down 12.8 bushels from last year. If realized, both the yield and production would be at their lowest levels since 1995. Yields are lower than last month across much of the Corn Belt and along the Atlantic Coastal Plains as hot and dry conditions persist. However, yields are up in the northern Corn Belt, northern Great Plains, and southern Great Plains where total precipitation for the month was above normal. Farmers expect to harvest 70.5 million acres of corn for grain, down 460,000 acres from August but up 3 percent from 2001.

SOYBEANS: Production is forecast at 2.66 billion bushels, up 1 percent from August but 8 percent below 2001. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 37.0 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from last month. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1999. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 71.8 million acres, down slightly from August and 2 percent below last year. Area expected for harvest was decreased by 230,000 acres in four States due to abandonment. The States with the largest acreage reductions are Kansas and Nebraska. Downward adjustments to harvested acres were also made in North Carolina and South Dakota. Yield prospects improved in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and across the northern Corn Belt due to mild temperatures and adequate moisture supplies. Yield prospects declined along the Ohio Valley and Atlantic Coast States due to above normal temperatures.

Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida
and United States as of September 1, 2002 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2001	For harvest 2002	2001	Indicated 2002		2001	Indicated 2002
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton	124	^{1/}	612	^{1/} ^{2/}		158	^{1/}
Peanuts	82	92	3,050	2,900	Lbs.	250,100	266,800
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{3/}	5.0	6.5	265	275	Cwt	1,325	1,788
Spring ^{3/}	25.0	25.4	319	283	Cwt	7,970	7,179
Sugarcane	465	455	35.1	36.4	Ton	16,338	16,562
Tobacco, Type 14	4.5	4.8	2,600	2,800	Lbs.	11,700	13,440
OTHER STATES							
FLORIDA AND KANSAS							
Cotton ^{1/}	159.5	174.0	566	676	^{2/}	188.1	245.0
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	68,808	70,541	138.2	125.4	Bu.	9,506,840	8,848,529
Cotton, all ^{5/}	13,827.7	12,891.4	705	675	^{2/}	20,302.8	18,134.0
Hay, Alfalfa	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09	Ton	80,266	74,640
Hay, all other	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.92	Ton	76,437	77,976
Peanuts for nuts	1,411.9	1,360.5	3,029	2,808	Lbs.	4,276,704	3,820,950
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{3/}	14.0	13.5	294	272	Cwt	4,115	3,678
Spring ^{3/}	76.2	77.7	286	280	Cwt	21,814	21,753
Summer	58.8	60.6	310	310	Cwt	18,209	18,813
Fall	1,222.2	1,293.9	358	^{6/}	Cwt	437,888	^{6/}
Rice	3,314	3,207	6,429	6,432	^{4/}	213,045	206,275
Sorghum for grain	8,584	7,528	59.9	51.0	Bu.	514,524	384,254
Soybeans for beans	73,000	71,799	39.6	37.0	Bu.	2,890,572	2,655,819
Sugarbeets	1,243.6	1,370.8	20.7	20.8	Ton	25,787	28,495
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	1,028.0	1,024.1	33.6	34.4	Ton	34,587	35,264
Tobacco, All	432.4	435.5	2,293	2,037	Lbs.	991,519	886,973
Tobacco, Type 14	30.6	32.8	2,481	2,074	Lbs.	75,906	68,040
Wheat, all	48,653	47,628	40.2	35.4	Bu.	1,957,643	1,686,306
Winter	31,295	29,764	43.5	38.9	Bu.	1,361,479	1,158,710
Durum	2,789	2,692	30.0	29.5	Bu.	83,556	79,545
Other spring	14,569	15,172	35.2	29.5	Bu.	512,608	448,051

^{1/} Individual State level estimates will be published in the "Crop Production 2002 Summary." ^{2/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales. ^{3/} Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. ^{4/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. ^{5/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton. ^{6/} First forecast in November.