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FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



November 13, 2003

FLORIDA

FLORIDA: Dry weather returned during October with cotton harvesting advancing rapidly. Sugarcane mills started to open about mid-October with mostly clear conditions allowing harvest progress to stay on schedule throughout the month. Dry conditions during October hardened soils with rains around mid-month softening the ground in the Panhandle areas which allowed peanut harvest to advance rapidly. Most peanut digging was done by early November. Peanut growers reported mostly good to excellent yields. Some Panhandle producers made the last cuts of hay by early November. Scab infestations following abundant rains in July and August lowered pecan yield prospects in some Panhandle localities.

PEANUTS: Production is expected to total 321 million pounds, up three percent from the October forecast and over one and a half times higher than the 197.8 million pounds dug in 2002. Yield is set at 3,000 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from the October forecast. Last year, yield averaged 2,300 pounds per acre. Acreage to be harvested is set at 107,000 acres, up 21,000 acres from the 86,000 acres dug in 2002.

SUGARCANE: Number of acres to be cut is set at 441,000, down 20,000 acres from the 461,000 acres harvested last year. Yield is expected to average about 40 tons per acre, up 1.7 tons from the 38.3 tons per acre averaged for the 2002-03 crop. Production calculates to 17,640,000 tons, down 13,000 tons from the 17,653,000 tons produced last year.

UNITED STATES

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 4.09 billion pounds, up 4 percent from last month and up 23 percent from 2002. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.28 million acres, unchanged from the October estimate but down 2 percent from 2002. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,205 pounds per acre, 110 pounds above last month and up 644 pounds from 2002. Record high yields are forecast for Georgia, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.75 billion pounds, up 5 percent from last month and 44 percent above last year. Expected area for harvest, at 849,000 acres, is unchanged from last month but up 8 percent from the previous year. Yield in the 4-State area is expected to average 3,238 pounds per acre, up 143 pounds from October and 805 pounds above 2002.

Objective yield data continue to show above average boll counts in Georgia. Average boll weight is the highest of the previous five years. North Carolina boll counts and weights are near average.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at 36.1 million tons, unchanged from the October forecast but 1 percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 997,000 acres for sugar and seed during the 2003 crop year, unchanged from last month but 3 percent below last year's final harvested area. Yield is forecast at 36.2 tons per acre, unchanged from October but 1.5 tons above 2002. Dry weather conditions in Florida and Louisiana have been favorable for harvesting. The Louisiana harvest continued to advance smoothly while Florida growers began harvesting around mid-October. Harvesting in Texas has been slowed by heavy rain and wet field conditions. Weather in Hawaii remained relatively dry but has not yet had an influence on yields.

CORN: Area harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 71.8 million acres, unchanged from October but up 4 percent from 2002. Corn objective yield data on November 1 indicate ear counts in the combined seven objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin) are at a record high, 4 percent above the previous high in 2000 and 6 percent above last year. Indicated ear counts are the highest on record in six of the seven objective yield States. Nebraska's ear count is the third highest on record, below 1999 and 2000. Freezing temperatures during the first week of October ended crop growth in the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, while warm weather during the second week of October accelerated maturation. Harvest progressed rapidly during mid-October, especially in Minnesota and North Dakota where farmers harvested more than 30 percent of their crop during one week. As of November 2, eighty-five percent of the corn acreage was harvested in the 18 major corn-producing States, compared with 75 percent last year and 83 percent for the average. States in the Ohio Valley were behind the 5-year average due to late plantings.

COTTON: Upland cotton harvested area, at 11.9 million acres, is unchanged from the October estimate but 2 percent less than last year. Harvest progress continues to lag well behind the 5-year average in most States. American-Pima harvested area, at 168,400 acres, is unchanged from October but down 31 percent from 2002. In the Southeastern States, cool temperatures in early October slowed boll maturation and the effectiveness of defoliates. There were warm, sunny days later in October that aided maturity, but there were also intermittent showers throughout the month that interrupted harvest activity.

SOYBEANS: Production is forecast at 2.45 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the October forecast and 11 percent below 2002. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 33.8 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from October and down 4.2 bushels from 2002. As harvest progressed, producers realized yield decreases from last month in South Dakota, upper Mississippi Valley, Great Lakes, and eastern Corn Belt. However, in Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, the Tennessee Valley, and along the Atlantic Coastal Plains, yield prospects increased from last month. Area for harvest is forecast at 72.5 million acres, unchanged from last month but up fractionally from 2002.

Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida
and United States as of November 1, 2003 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2002	For harvest 2003	2002	Indicated 2003		2002	Indicated 2003
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton ^{1/}	115	99	401	621	^{2/}	96	128
Peanuts	86	107	2,300	3,000	Lbs.	197,800	321,000
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{1/}	6.7	5.8	265	240	Cwt	1,776	1,392
Spring ^{1/}	26.3	27.3	300	250	Cwt	7,883	6,825
Sugarcane	461	441	38.3	40.0	Ton	17,653	17,640
Tobacco, Type 14 ^{1/}	4.6	4.3	2,600	2,500	Lbs.	11,960	10,750
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	69,313	71,765	130.0	143.2	Bu.	9,007,659	10,277,932
Cotton, all	12,426.6	12,107.4	665	722	^{2/}	17,208.6	18,215.0
Upland	12,184.0	11,939.0	651	715	^{2/}	16,530.3	17,773.0
American-Pima	242.6	168.4	1,342	1,260	^{2/}	678.3	442.0
Hay, Alfalfa	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.34	Ton	73,824	78,523
Hay, all other	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	Ton	77,138	82,183
Peanuts for nuts	1,296.7	1,277.0	2,561	3,205	Lbs.	3,320,490	4,092,700
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{1/}	15.7	14.3	268	282	Cwt	4,206	4,027
Spring ^{1/}	86.1	82.9	271	269	Cwt	23,294	22,305
Summer	59.1	60.5	304	320	Cwt	17,985	19,360
Fall	1,109.4	1,094.8	373	378	Cwt	414,317	413,549
Rice	3,207	2,978	6,578	6,656	^{3/}	210,960	198,211
Sorghum for grain	7,299	7,851	50.7	51.0	Bu.	369,758	400,012
Soybeans for beans	72,437	72,538	38.0	33.8	Bu.	2,749,340	2,451,759
Sugarbeets	1,361.1	1,345.6	20.4	22.8	Ton	27,718	30,624
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	1,023.2	997.0	34.7	36.2	Ton	35,553	36,054
Tobacco, All	428.7	413.0	2,055	2,044	Lbs.	880,734	844,298
Wheat, all	45,917	52,839	35.3	44.2	Bu.	1,619,001	2,336,526
Winter	29,751	36,541	38.5	46.7	Bu.	1,145,602	1,707,069
Durum	2,703	2,869	29.4	33.7	Bu.	79,450	96,637
Other spring	13,463	13,429	29.3	39.7	Bu.	393,949	532,820

^{1/} Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

^{2/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

^{3/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.