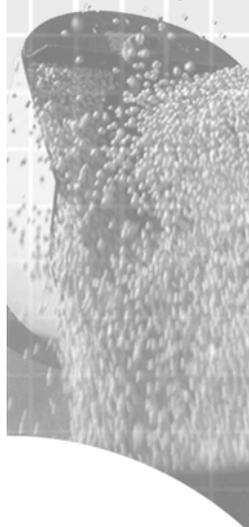


Released:

9/14/2005

Access our reports  
Via the internet at  
[www.nass.usda.gov/fl](http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl)



United States  
Department  
Of Agriculture



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Florida  
Field Office

Benjamin F. Klugh, Jr.  
Director  
407/648-6013

## FLORIDA

Sporadic rainfall during August interrupted field activities with saturated, muddy fields preventing the applications of pesticides to cotton, peanuts and soybeans. Most corn for silage was finished by early August in most Panhandle localities. Peanuts were in fairly good condition with most peanuts pegged, although some white mold and tomato spotted wilt virus started appearing. Continuous rainfall significantly reduced hay production and lowered quality in several localities. Drier conditions by mid-month allowed growers to combat diseases and insects affecting many fields. Some pecan trees started defoliation early due to scab and aphid infestations. At the end of August, strong winds and rains from Hurricane Katrina slowed fieldwork. Katrina damaged crops as the storm crossed over the southern tip of the Peninsula as well as the western Panhandle. Development of soybean rust is anticipated by growers due to cooler temperatures and moisture. Problems with insects and disease pressure increased in many Panhandle and northern Peninsula fields.

Katrina's rains leached fertilizer from cotton fields and washed away pesticides resulting in an increase of insect populations by early September. Small cotton bolls were blown off plants and some larger bolls were damaged. Wet conditions increased the incidence of disease in many peanut fields due to pesticides washing away. Corn was significantly damaged since fields had been hit previously by Hurricane Dennis in the same Panhandle areas. In wetter areas, armyworms in hay fields continued to be a problem with growers unable to spray pesticides for control. Growers in areas experiencing wet conditions for most of the summer suffered significant losses of hay production.

**PEANUTS:** At the end of August, strong winds and abundant rain from Katrina damaged fields in the extreme western Panhandle with some yield loss expected. Production is expected to total 420,500,000 pounds, up nearly 16 percent from last year. Yield is set at 2,900 pounds per acre compared to 2,800 pounds per acre last year. Acreage to be dug at 145,000 acres is up 15,000 acres from last year.

**SUGARCANE:** The crop escaped most of the winds and rains from the tropical systems during August. Expected harvested acreage is set at 420,000, up 14,000 acres from 2004. Yield is expected to average 37 tons per acre, up almost 2 tons from last year. Estimated production is 15,540,000 tons compared to 14,281,000 tons produced last year.

**TOBACCO:** Harvesting was virtually complete by the end of August. Almost daily rains throughout August lowered leaf quality. Most growers reported disease infestations on most acreage, predominantly in the northern Peninsula. Growers expect to harvest 6,720,000 pounds, down 4 percent from the August forecast and 31 percent below the 9,800,000 pounds in 2004. Yield is forecast at 2,400 pounds per acre, a decrease of 100 pounds from August and 50 pounds from last year. Acreage harvested at 2,800 is unchanged from August but down 30 percent from a year ago.

## UNITED STATES

**CORN:** Production is forecast at 10.6 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month but 10 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 143.2 bushels per acre, up 4.0 bushels from August but 17.2 bushels below the record high last year. Forecast yields are down from the previous year in all Corn Belt States except Michigan and Wisconsin. Compared with last year, the largest yield decreases are expected in Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and New Jersey. Farmers expect to harvest 74.3 million acres of corn for grain, down 50,000 acres from August but up 1 percent from 2004.

**SOYBEANS:** Production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down 9 percent from the record crop of 2004. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.6 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from August. Adequate moisture across most of the Corn Belt and the Great Plains by the end of the month was a relief for many dry areas, including most of the drought-stricken areas of Illinois and Missouri. The Delta and Southeast also received favorable moisture, maintaining good yield potential in most areas, including a record high forecast in Louisiana and a record tying forecast in South Carolina.

**PEANUTS:** Production is forecast at a record high 5.01 billion pounds, up 18 percent from last year's crop but down 3 percent from last month. Planted acres, at 1.65 million, are down fractionally from the June estimate but up 15 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.61 million acres, down 5,000 from the June estimate but up 15 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3,117 pounds per acre, down 73 pounds from August but up 60 pounds from 2004. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 3.56 billion pounds, down 4 percent from August but up 24 percent from last year's level. Planted acres, at 1.21 million, are down 3 percent from the June estimate but up 21 percent from 2004. Expected acreage for harvest, at 1.18 million, is down 3 percent from August but up 21 percent from last year. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 3,029 pounds per acre, 36 pounds below last month but 83 pounds above 2004. As of August 28, peanuts in Alabama were rated 81 percent good to excellent. Peanuts in Florida were rated 82 percent good to excellent, and in Georgia, peanuts were rated 72 percent good to excellent.

**TOBACCO:** Flue-cured production is expected to total 389 million pounds, 5 percent below last month and down 25 percent from 2004. Growers plan to harvest 178,800 acres in 2005, down 4 percent from last month and 22 percent below last year. Yields are forecast to average 2,176 pounds per acre, 27 pounds below the August forecast and 96 pounds less than the previous year. Rain continues to be a problem for tobacco growers in both Florida and Georgia contributing to disease and lower yields. On the other hand, growers in the main tobacco region of South Carolina have experienced dry weather in the past month despite ample rainfall earlier this season. Harvest is almost complete and yields are down only slightly in South Carolina.

**SUGARCANE:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2005 is forecast at 30.2 million tons, 3 percent below the August forecast but 4 percent above 2004. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 942,900 acres for sugar and seed during the 2005 crop year, down less than 1 percent from August but 4,700 acres more than last year's final harvested area. Yield is forecast at 32.0 tons per acre, 0.8 ton below the previous forecast but 1.1 tons above the 2004 yield. The production forecast for Louisiana is down over 1 million tons, due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Harvested acreage in Louisiana is forecast at 455,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from August, while expected yield, at 24.0 tons per acre, is 2.0 tons below the previous forecast. Acreage, yield, and production forecasts are unchanged for Florida.

**CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of September 1, 2005 with comparisons**

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2004	For harvest 2005	2004	Indicated 2005		2004	Indicated 2005
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Units</i>			<i>Thousands</i>	
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Cotton	87	85	601	548	<sup>1/</sup>	109	97
Peanuts <sup>2/</sup>	130	145	2,800	2,900	Lbs.	364,000	420,500
POTATOES:							
Winter <sup>3/</sup>	5.5	5.8	285	270	Cwt.	1,568	1,566
Spring <sup>3/</sup>	24.5	23.2	313	282	Cwt.	7,678	6,550
Sugarcane	406	420	35.2	37.0	Ton	14,281	15,540
Tobacco, Type 14	4.0	2.8	2,450	2,400	Lbs.	9,800	6,720
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Corn for grain	73,632	74,318	160.4	143.2	Bu.	11,807,217	10,638,661
Cotton, all <sup>4/</sup>	13,057	13,673	855	782	<sup>1/</sup>	23,250.7	22,282.0
Hay, Alfalfa	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.34	Ton	75,383	73,849
Hay, All Other	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.92	Ton	82,391	76,068
Peanuts for nuts <sup>2/</sup>	1,394	1,607	3,057	3,117	Lbs.	4,261,700	5,009,800
POTATOES:							
Winter <sup>3/</sup>	18.5	19.8	260	256	Cwt.	4,818	5,066
Spring <sup>3/</sup>	72.2	64.4	314	281	Cwt.	22,663	18,099
Summer <sup>5/</sup>	53.9	48.3	340	334	Cwt.	18,307	16,123
Fall <sup>5/</sup>	1,022.3	955.7	401	<sup>6/</sup>	Cwt.	410,253	<sup>6/</sup>
Rice <sup>2/7/</sup>	3,325	3,343	6,942	6,830	<sup>8/</sup>	230,818	228,338
Sorghum for grain	6,517	6,030	69.8	66.0	Bu.	454,899	397,721
Soybeans for beans	73,958	72,184	42.5	39.6	Bu.	3,140,996	2,856,449
Sugarbeets	1,306.9	1,242.8	22.9	21.2	Ton	29,956	26,296
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	938.2	942.9	30.9	32.0	Ton	29,013	30,161
Tobacco, All	408	307	2,155	2,099	Lbs.	879,227	644,278
Tobacco, Types 11 - 14	228.4	178.8	2,272	2,176	Lbs.	518,835	389,120
Tobacco, Type 14	27.0	18.8	2,092	1,804	Lbs.	56,490	33,920
Wheat, all	49,999	50,361	43.2	43.0	Bu.	2,158,245	2,167,178
Winter	34,462	34,271	43.5	44.4	Bu.	1,499,434	1,520,848
Durum	2,363	2,453	38.0	37.9	Bu.	89,893	92,955
Other spring	13,174	13,637	43.2	40.6	Bu.	568,918	553,375

<sup>1/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

<sup>2/</sup> Updated from "Acreage" released June 30, 2005.

<sup>3/</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

<sup>4/</sup> Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

<sup>5/</sup> First forecast in November.

<sup>7/</sup> Indicated September 1, 2005, rice class estimates are based on a 5-year average of class percentages. The class percentages are adjusted as data become available through the growing season. State estimates by class will be published in the "Crop Production 2005 Summary."

<sup>8/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. Includes sweet rice production.