

Released:

10/16/2006

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## FLORIDA

**FLORIDA:** Mostly dry conditions during September allowed growers to advance peanut, and cotton harvesting with sugarcane cutting underway by the end of the month. Growers advanced cotton picking with progress well ahead of usual by the end of the month. Producers started picking cotton earlier than normal to avoid damage from early frosts. Growers harvested only 29 percent of peanuts by the end of the first week in October, compared with 45 percent harvested last year and the 5-year average of 61 percent harvested. Some peanut growers irrigated prior to digging due to hard soils caused by the continuing drought. Also, producers waited for maturation of the pegs put on during the rains falling in August and early September. However, in early October, growers indicated that more rain was needed to ensure proper peg development for late plantings and late maturing varieties. Peanut quality was lower than normal in fields affected by the summer drought. Dryland yields were significantly below normal; however, most irrigated acreage produced good yields and quality. By the end of the first week in October, 4 percent of the peanut crop was rated very poor, 36 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 30 percent good and 1 percent excellent. During September, frequent showers in the growing region around Lake Okeechobee damaged some sugarcane acreage with harvesting active by the end of the month.

**COTTON:** Yield was set at 577 pounds per acre based on conditions existing October 1. This was an increase of 115 pounds above the September 1 forecast, but down 185 pounds from last year. Production was expected to total 125,000 480-pound bales, up 25,000 bales from the September estimate, but down 10,000 bales from last year's production. Producers expected to pick 104,000 acres, the same as the September estimate, but up 19,000 from last year.

**PEANUTS:** Yield increased 200 pounds per acre from the previous month's forecast and was expected to average 2,500 pounds per acre based on conditions existing October 1. Growers expected production to total 300 million pounds, up 9 percent from the September forecast, but down 27 percent from last year's 410.4 million pounds produced. Growers planned to dig 120,000 acres as of September 1, down 32,000 acres from last year.

**SUGARCANE:** The October 1 yield forecast of 34.8 tons per acre reflected a drop of over a half ton per acre from the September 1 estimate due to damage from Tropical Storm Ernesto and other storms crossing the growing region around Lake Okeechobee. Production was expected to total 14.1 million tons, down 2 percent from the September estimate, but up nearly 11 percent from last year's production. Acreage to be harvested, at 405,000 acres, was down 2,000 acres from the September estimate.

**TOBACCO:** The acreage, yield and production estimates remained unchanged from last month's figures. Acreage harvested totaled 1,100 acres, down 1,400 acres or 56 percent from the 2,500 acres cut last year. Yield per acre averaged 2,400 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from a year ago. Production totaled 2,640,000 pounds, down 2,860,000 pounds or 52 percent from last year.

**PECANS:** Production estimated at 900,000 pounds, down 100,000 pounds from a year ago. The estimated production of improved varieties is expected to total 400,000 pounds, up 33 percent from the 300,000 pounds produced in 2005. Native/Seedling production is 500,000 pounds, down nearly 29 percent from the 700,000 pounds harvested in 2005. Native/Seedling production was negatively impacted by the drought conditions in most Panhandle areas, as well as surrounding localities. Growers irrigated most stands of improved varieties, which should help increase production.

**WINTER POTATOES:** The estimated acreage, yield and production showed no change from the earlier forecast. Acreage totaled 5,700 acres planted and 5,500 harvested, both down 300 acres from the respective 2005 acreages. Yield averaged 250 hundredweight per acre, up 10 hundredweight or 4 percent from a year ago. Production was set at 1,375,000 hundredweight, down 1 percent from last year.

## UNITED STATES

**COTTON:** Upland cotton harvested area, at 12.5 million acres, is unchanged from last month but down 8 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested acres are unchanged from last month but are up 21 percent from last year. In the Southeastern States, defoliation of the crop was underway throughout the region. In Alabama and Georgia, the hot, dry weather during the summer months stimulated maturation of the crop allowing harvest to get into full swing by mid-September, well ahead of the 5-year average. As of October 1, the crop condition in Alabama was rated very poor to poor while the crop in Georgia was in mostly fair to poor condition.

**PEANUTS:** Production is forecast at 3.27 billion pounds, down 33 percent from last year's crop but up 2 percent from last month. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.21 million acres, unchanged from September but down 26 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,693 pounds per acre, up 53 pounds from last month but down 296 pounds from 2005. Production in the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.26 billion pounds, up 1 percent from August and down 33 percent from last year's level. Expected acreage for harvest, at 924,000, is unchanged from September but down 23 percent from 2005. Yields in the region are expected to average 2,448 pounds per acre, 32 pounds above last month but 360 pounds below 2005.



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**SUGARCANE:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2006 is forecast at 29.0 million tons, 2 percent above the September forecast and 9 percent above 2005. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 908,800 acres for sugar and seed during the 2006 crop year, down fractionally from September and down 1 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 31.9 tons per acre, 0.7 ton above the previous forecast and 3.1 tons above the 2005 yield. Louisiana's acreage is unchanged from the previous forecast, but expected yield is 2.0 tons higher than last month due to a growth spurt caused by rainfall in late August and warm weather in September.

**TOBACCO:** Flue-cured production is expected to total 454 million pounds, down less than 1 percent from the previous forecast but 19 percent above 2005. Growers plan to harvest 208,100 acres, unchanged since September but up 19 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,181 pounds per acre, 4 pounds below the September 1 forecast and down 1 pound from a year ago. The Southern tobacco States experienced high temperatures with below average rainfall throughout the majority of the tobacco growing season. In North Carolina, the leading flue-cured tobacco producing State, growers have reported leaving some tobacco in the fields as they reach their contract limits or do not have the labor to harvest the tobacco as it matures. However, yields in North Carolina, at 2,200 pounds per acre, remain unchanged from September but 27 pounds below a year ago. Growers in Georgia expect yields to decrease from a month ago while all other flue-cured States expect yields to remain the same.

**PECANS:** The October 1, 2006 forecast of pecan utilized production is 201 million pounds (in-shell basis), down 28 percent from last year's crop but 8 percent above 2004. Improved varieties are expected to produce 150 million pounds or 74 percent of the total, while native and seedling varieties, at 51.7 million pounds, make up the remaining 26 percent. The 2006 crop is expected to be smaller than last year's in most producing States mainly because it is a low year in the alternate bearing pattern typical of pecans.

**WINTER POTATOES:** Production for 2006 is revised to 4.50 million cwt, down 3 percent from the April forecast and 8 percent below 2005. Harvested area of 17,500 acres in the 2 winter potato States (California and Florida) is unchanged from the April 1 forecast but 12 percent less than last year. The average yield of 257 cwt per acre is down 7 cwt from the April forecast but 10 cwt above 2005.

**CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of October 1, 2006 with comparisons**

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2005	For harvest 2006	2005	Indicated 2006		2005	Indicated 2006
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Units</i>			<i>Thousands</i>	
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Cotton, Upland	85	104	762	577	<sup>1/</sup>	135	125
Peanuts <sup>2/</sup>	152	120	2,700	2,500	Lbs.	410,400	300,000
Pecans, All					Lbs.	1,000	900
Improved Varieties					Lbs.	300	400
Native and Seedling					Lbs.	700	500
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>3/</sup>	5.8	5.5	240	250	Cwt	1,392	1,375
Spring <sup>4/</sup>	23.2	23.7	281	294	Cwt	6,527	6,962
Sugarcane	401	405	31.8	34.8	Ton	12,746	14,094
Tobacco, Type 14 <sup>4/</sup>	2.5	1.1	2,200	2,400	Lbs.	5,500	2,640
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Corn for grain	75,107	71,047	147.9	153.5	Bu.	11,112,072	10,905,194
Cotton, all <sup>5/</sup>	13,802.6	12,816.0	831	774	<sup>1/</sup>	23,890.2	20,659.0
Hay, Alfalfa	22,389	22,407	3.38	3.33	Ton	75,771	74,527
Hay, All Other	39,260	40,290	1.91	1.80	Ton	74,819	72,511
Peanuts for nuts <sup>2/</sup>	1,629	1,213	2,989	2,693	Lbs.	4,869,860	3,266,600
Pecans, All					Lbs.	280,200	201,400
Improved Varieties					Lbs.	228,650	149,700
Native and Seedling					Lbs.	51,550	51,700
Potatoes							
Winter <sup>3/</sup>	19.8	17.5	247	257	Cwt	4,892	4,495
Spring	66.7	69.7	281	296	Cwt	18,724	20,646
Summer	51.4	54.8	342	342	Cwt	17,567	18,731
Fall	949.0	974.4	403	<sup>6/</sup>	Cwt	382,743	<sup>6/</sup>
Rice	3,364	2,823	6,636	6,811	<sup>7/</sup>	223,235	192,263
Sorghum for grain	5,736	5,319	68.7	56.6	Bu.	393,893	301,217
Soybeans for beans	71,251	74,505	43.0	42.8	Bu.	3,063,237	3,188,576
Sugarbeets	1,242.9	1,343.6	22.2	24.5	Ton	27,537	32,928
Sugarcane for sugar and seed	922.6	908.8	28.8	31.9	Ton	26,604	28,975
Tobacco, All	298.1	334.3	2,171	2,194	Lbs.	647,278	733,608
Wheat, all	50,119	46,810	42.0	38.7	Bu.	2,104,690	1,812,036
Winter	33,794	31,117	44.4	41.7	Bu.	1,499,129	1,298,081
Durum	2,716	1,815	37.2	29.5	Bu.	101,105	53,475
Other spring	13,609	13,878	37.1	33.2	Bu.	504,456	460,480

<sup>1/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales. <sup>2/</sup> 2005 yield and production revised. <sup>3/</sup> 2006 revised. <sup>4/</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. <sup>5/</sup> Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton. <sup>6/</sup> First forecast in November. <sup>7/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. Includes sweet rice production.