

# 2001 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics

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*Compiled by*

Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

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*In Cooperation with*

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The support and cooperation of Louisiana's farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses are the foundation for accurate and reliable agricultural statistics. The entire staff of the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, along with the enumerators of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) who collect the data, would like to express our great appreciation to the many individuals and operations who provided the survey data to make this publication and the estimates it contains possible.

The 2001 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics bulletin provides a wealth of economic, crop, livestock, and weather data for the state as a whole. Additionally, for major commodities, the bulletin provides 2001 parish level estimates.

Funding for the publication of 2001 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics was provided by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Louisiana State University Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

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Dear Friends in Agriculture:

Louisiana agriculture continues to be faced with the challenges of low commodity prices and unpredictable weather, yet our farmers and ranchers persevere. Louisiana's 29,000 farms increased in size to an average of 278 acres from 2000 to 2001, while our number of farms dropped from 29,500, and overall land in farms fell 50,000 acres. Despite generally low prices for commodities and high prices for inputs, there have been some bright spots.

Rice, sorghum, soybean and corn growers achieved record yields in 2001, and hay production and yield were the highest ever recorded in the state. Cash receipts for poultry and eggs surged in 2001, reaching its second highest dollar value ever. These are milestones of which Louisiana can be proud.

Agriculture is a major part of Louisiana's heritage and a heavy contributor to our economy today. For many in the state, it is both lifeblood and livelihood. The mission of the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service is *to serve Louisiana, its agriculture and its rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information and services*. Through a strong partnership and cooperative agreements with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana State University, the LSU Agricultural Center and the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Stations, we produce this hardcopy publication of Louisiana Agricultural Statistics each year.

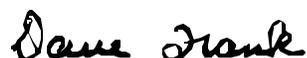
Our state level reports and publications are also available via the internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/la](http://www.nass.usda.gov/la). Automatic e-mail subscriptions are available for many of our reports. Instructions for subscribing are available via the *Publications* link on our website. Please contact us anytime for statistics, information, questions or comments.

We are proud of our efforts on behalf of Louisiana Agriculture, but we are always mindful that we cannot do our jobs without the help, support and cooperation of the many farmers, ranchers and agri-business people of the great state of Louisiana. They are the source of the information we use to provide all of our statistics, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

In today's world, knowledge is power. It's the difference between survival and extinction. In order to be competitive, today's farmers, agribusiness people, agricultural lenders and others with a stake in farming have to have the very best, most accurate information available. We aim to provide that information – with your continued help and support.

*Louisiana counts on Agriculture.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dave Frank  
State Statistician