

2005
Louisiana
Agricultural Statistics

Compiled by
The Louisiana Field Office
of
The United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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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 National Agricultural Statistics Service's Louisiana Field Office, 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 2005 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 2005 parish level estimates.

Funding for the publication of 2005 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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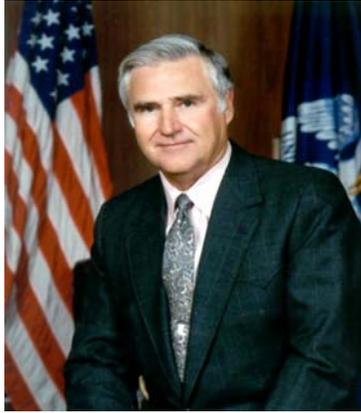
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Message from Commissioner Odom

Louisiana has a long and rich history of innovative agricultural production.

Long known for its culinary expertise and *joie de vivre*, Louisiana agricultural producers virtually created the market for exotic food products like crawfish and alligator.

But Louisiana is not just a producer of the exotic. The state is a national leader in cotton and sugarcane cultivation. The planting of high-yielding sugarcane varieties and investment in new harvesting combines have made sugarcane farming more productive than ever. In addition, technological advances in machinery, seed production, fertilizers and pesticides have kept Louisiana among the national leaders in cotton production. Louisiana remains a leading rice-producing state and a major producer of corn, sweet potatoes, soybeans and pecans.

The LSU AgCenter introduced the Beauregard sweet potato to the world in 1987 and it has become the most popular variety ever developed. Louisiana nurserymen were the first to propagate superior pecan tree genotypes and the state continues to be one of the leading producers of pecans. At the same time, progressive agricultural innovations have also allowed Louisiana citrus and vegetable growers to feed American consumers.

The rise of the forestry industry has also established Louisiana as one of the pre-eminent producers of timber. The economic impact of paper-making and lumber production to the state's economy is greater than all of the other agricultural endeavors combined.

The numbers compiled within this publication are a reflection of the hard work of our Louisiana producers, and we thank them for their participation in the many surveys conducted by the Louisiana Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Sincerely,

Bob Odom

Bob Odom
Commissioner



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The USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service, Louisiana Field Office publishes the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics bulletin through cooperative agreements between the USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service's Louisiana Field Office, Louisiana Department of Agricultural and Forestry, Louisiana State University AgCenter and Southern University Extension. Enclosed in this publication are parish and state level estimates for specified agricultural commodities in this state. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the State in August and September 2005. This caused tremendous crop and livestock losses throughout Louisiana. Some areas fared better than others during the hurricanes but all of Louisiana was affected in some form or another.

We thank all Louisianans who have participated in the March, June, September, December Agricultural Survey, Monthly Crop Yield surveys, January and July Cattle surveys, Cotton Objective Yield survey, January Sheep and Goat Survey along with a number of other surveys conducted on an annual basis. This was an incredible year with all the devastation that was going on in Louisiana, first the drought then the storms, but Louisianans kept responding to surveys and answering questions about crop production and losses.

With so much activity throughout the state, the need for information was heightened to level probably not many of us have ever seen. Federal, State, and Local government officials and agencies were in need of information and as quickly as you can provide it. USDA-NASS, Louisiana Field Office was able to provide a great deal of that information because of your cooperation on the annual and monthly surveys that are conducted by this office. Thank you again for your participation.

Data included in this publication represent numerous agricultural, economic and chemical use surveys completed by a multitude of Louisiana producers over the years. Without the cooperation of agricultural producers, agri-business and private industry these data series would not be possible

The Louisiana Field Office is a state office within the National Agricultural Statistics Service which is the agency charged with providing agricultural statistics for the United States Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Nathan L. Crisp

Director