

# 2006

## *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 2006 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 2006 parish level estimates.

Funding for the publication of 2006 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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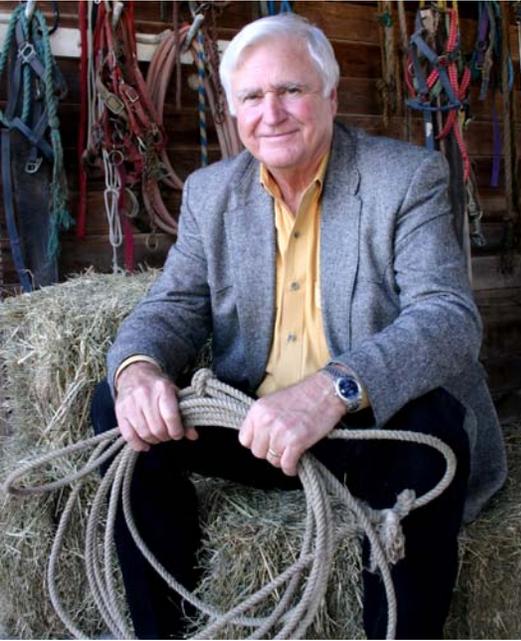
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*Message from Commissioner Odom*

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. And now, with the demand for corn in the alternative fuels market, Louisiana producers are helping fill the need with the addition of more planted corn acreage. Louisiana remains a leading rice-producing state and a major producer of 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 pecan nuts. 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 this survey conducted by the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

Sincerely,

*Bob Odom*

Bob Odom  
Commissioner



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
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In cooperation with:  
Louisiana State Department of  
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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 Extension Service. Enclosed in this publication are parish and state level estimates for specified agricultural commodities in this state. Agriculture after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the State in August and September 2005 has begun to slowly rebound. Data in this publication reflect post-hurricane crop and livestock situations throughout Louisiana during 2006. The parishes that were hit hardest by the hurricanes have begun to slowly recover while the rest of the state sustained damages from wind and rain but were able to salvage most of their crops and save the majority of livestock.

We thank all Louisianans who have participated in the March, June, September, December Agricultural Surveys, Monthly Crop Yield surveys, January and July Cattle Surveys, Cotton Objective Yield Survey, January and July Sheep and Goat Surveys along with a number of other surveys conducted on an annual basis. Producers were under tremendous amount of stress making decisions on whether or not to plant crops or which crops to plant depending on land conditions and crop prices. Some producers were also faced with loss of homes and providing living quarters for their families as well as hired workers.

The need for information did not decrease with the new year and questions needed to be answered as to the extent of the damage and how those damages would affect crop and livestock production in Louisiana after the storms. 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

# 2007

## CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

### **What does the Census of Agriculture mean to you, the Louisiana farmer?**

*The Census of Agriculture* is the only data source for determining the importance of the commodities you produce to local agriculture, parish agriculture or to Louisiana agriculture as a whole. Economic data show the economic impact that production of your commodities has on your local area, parish or state. These are the data farm groups use to successfully oppose laws that would be detrimental to agriculture.

*The Census of Agriculture* is the only source of data that permits Louisiana agriculture to be compared with agriculture in other states in terms of your commodities. These types of comparisons are often made when determining the allocation of disaster payments.

*The Census of Agriculture* is the only complete source of agricultural data coupled with demographic data. These data are often combined with Population Census data to evaluate and compare local economies and local workforces as companies consider where to relocate a business or where to open new businesses, plants, etc.

There are many, many more uses for Census data, and the need for these data increases every year. **Good data work for agriculture.** *The Census of Agriculture* is your voice, your future and your responsibility.

Report forms for the 2007 Census of Agriculture will be mailed to farmers on December 28, 2007, to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. You can complete and return your form by mail or via NASS's secure web site. As with all data you report to NASS, your Census data are kept confidential and are protected by law. Every farm is important, no matter how large or small.