



Louisiana Farm Reporter  
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**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

Prospective Yields & Production  
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates

**Louisiana Prospective Yields & Productions**

For the second straight year, Louisiana's agricultural landscape has an unfamiliar look. Last year corn prices drove the planting decisions. This year rice and soybean prices are at record highs, and that has contributed to the all-time low in cotton acreage planted in the state.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 23.9 million cwt, up 3 percent from 2007. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 405,000 acres, up 27,000 acres from the 2007 crop. Yield per acre is forecast at 5,900 pounds, down 240 pounds from last year's record yield of 6,140 pounds per acre.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 33.0 million bushels in Louisiana, up 33 percent from 2007. An estimated 970,000 acres will be harvested, up 380,000 acres from 2007. Yield is forecast at 34 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels from last year's record yield.

Louisiana's **corn** production is forecast at 77.5 million bushels, down 36 percent from a year ago. An estimated 500,000 acres will be harvested for grain, down 230,000 acres from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 155 bushels, is down 10 bushels from the record yield set in 2007.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 540,000 bales, down 23 percent from 2007. An estimated 285,000 acres are expected to be harvested, down 45,000 acres from last year, and the lowest harvested cotton acreage on record for Louisiana. At 909 pounds, the yield per acre forecast is down 108 pounds from 2007.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 11.3 million net tons, down 11 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 405,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2007. Yield is forecast at 28 net tons per acre, down 8 percent from last year.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 9 million bushels in the state, down 62 percent from 2007. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 95,000 acres, down 150,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 95 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last year.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.2 million tons, unchanged from last year. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 440,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from 2007. Yield, at 2.8 tons per acre, is down .2 ton from last year.

**United States Prospective Yields & Productions**

**Rice** production is forecast at 205 million cwt, up 4 percent from 2007 and up 6 percent from 2006. Area for harvest is expected to total 2.88 million acres, unchanged from June but up 5 percent from last year. Rice planted area, at 2.9 million acres, is also unchanged from the June estimate. The U.S. yield is forecast at 7,116 pounds per acre, down 69 pounds from the 2007 record U.S. yield of 7,185, but would be the second highest yield on record if realized. Record yields are forecast in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas, while Louisiana and Mississippi yields are expected to be the second highest on record. The steady increase in U.S. rice yields seen over the last decade is due to improved cropping practices and the introduction of higher yielding varieties.

**Soybean** production is forecast at 3.0 billion bushels, up 15 percent from last year but down 7 percent from the record high production of 2006. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.5 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from 2007. Compared with last year, yields are forecast lower in Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Texas and across the northern and central Great Plains. In contrast, yield prospects are forecast higher than last year or unchanged across the remainder of the country, with the largest increases in Kentucky and Tennessee, up 13 and 12 bushels from last year, respectively. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 73.3 million acres, up 2 percent from June and up 17 percent from 2007.

**Corn** production is forecast at 12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent from last year but 17 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 155 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels from last year. If realized, this yield would be the second highest on record, behind 2004. Production would be the second highest on record, behind last year when producers harvested the most acres of corn for grain since 1933. Forecasted yields are higher than last year in the northern and eastern Corn Belt, Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, and northern half of the Atlantic Coast where frequent precipitation this year contrasted with extremely dry weather last year. Expected yields across the southern half of the Great Plains and the Carolinas are below last year due to drought-like conditions throughout much of the growing season. Growers expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, up 350,000 acres from June but 8 percent lower than last year.

**All Cotton** production is forecast at 13.8 million 480-pound bales, down 28 percent from last years 19.2 million bales. Yield is expected to average 842 pounds per harvested acre, down 37 pounds from the record yield in 2007. Upland cotton production is forecast at 13.2 million 480-pound bales, 28 percent below 2007. Producers in the Southeast region are expecting increased yields from last year, while producers in Texas expect a lower yield than

the record high received in 2007. American-Pima production is forecast at 521,800 bales, down 39 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 7.9 million acres of all cotton and 7.7 million acres of upland cotton, both down 25 percent from last year and the lowest harvested acreage since 1983. American-Pima harvested area is expected to total 193,900 acres, down 33 percent from 2007.

**Sugarcane:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2008 is forecast at 30.4 million tons, up 2 percent from last year. Expected production increases in Florida, Hawaii and Texas more than offset a projected decrease in Louisiana. Producers intend to harvest 868,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 2008 crop year, down 3,000 acres from the June forecast and 11,100 acres below last year. Expected yield is estimated at 35 net tons per acre, up 0.9 ton from last year.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 410 million bushels, down 19 percent from last year. Expected area for harvest as grain is forecast at 6.44 million acres, down 5 percent from 2007. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 63.7 bushels per acre, down 10.5 bushels from last year. In Kansas, the top producing State, yields are expected to decrease 9 bushels per acre, while in Texas, the second leading State in sorghum production, yields are expected to decrease 14 bushels per acre.

**All Hay** production is forecast at 148 million tons, down 2 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.45 tons per acre, up slightly from last year. Harvested area, at 60.4 million acres, is down 2 percent from the previous year.

### CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA August 1, 2008

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008
Corn for grain	730	500	165	155	bushels	120,450	77,500
Upland cotton	330	285	1,017	909	lbs: bales	699	540
Rice, all	378	405	6,140	5,900	lbs: cwt	23,222	23,895
Sorghum for grain	245	95	97	95	bushels	23,765	9,025
Soybeans	590	970	42	34	bushels	24,780	32,980
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	420	405	30.4	28.0	net tons	12,768	11,340
Hay, all	400	440	3.0	2.8	tons	1,200	1,232

### CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES August 1, 2008

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008
Corn for grain	86,542	79,290	151.1	155.0	bushels	13,053,893	12,287,875
Cotton, all	10,489	7,849	879	842	lbs: bales	19,207	13,767
Rice, all	2,748	2,879	7,185	7,116	lbs: cwt	197,456	204,882
Sorghum for grain	6,805	6,442	74.2	63.7	bushels	504,993	410,134
Soybeans	62,820	73,341	41.2	40.5	bushels	2,585,207	2,972,577
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	879.6	868.5	34.1	35.0	net tons	29,969	30,420
Hay, all	61,625	60,439	2.44	2.45	tons	150,304	147,955

## Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 39,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2008, down 17 percent from July 8-14, 2007. Of the 39,000 hired workers, workers who work 150 days or more a year accounted for 79 percent of the total, and workers who work 149 days or fewer accounted for the remaining 21 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$9.88 per hour compared to \$9.07 per hour in July 2007. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$0.46 per hour less than the average U. S. hired farm worker. Livestock workers earned \$9.74 per hour compared to \$9.78 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$9.18, or \$1.04 cents more per hour this July than last July.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 39.4 hours per week, was 1.1 hours less per week than the current U.S. average of 40.5 hours per week.

## United States Farm Labor

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 345,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.66 per hour, up 42 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.73 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.74 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

### Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	July 2007	April 2008	July 2008	July 2007	April <sup>2</sup> 2008	July 2008
	----- Thousand Workers -----			----- Thousand Workers -----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	25	21	39	1,206	919	1,173
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	363	219	345
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	25	21	39	843	700	828
150 Days or More	18	18	31	596	563	585
149 Days or Less	7	3	8	247	137	243
	----- Per Week -----			----- Per Week -----		
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	38.1	36.9	39.4	41.4	40.8 <sup>2</sup>	40.5
	----- Per Hour -----			----- Per Hour -----		
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	\$9.07	\$9.45	\$9.88	\$9.99	\$10.57 <sup>2</sup>	\$10.34
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$8.14	\$8.77	\$9.18	\$9.24	\$9.65	\$9.66
Livestock	\$9.78	\$8.84	\$9.74	\$9.73	\$10.24 <sup>2</sup>	\$9.98

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

--- Data not published.

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