



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

October 1, 2007 Crop Prospects

Louisiana Crop Prospects

With harvest season coming to an end for many crops, farmers are seeing better yields than they expected. Our October yield estimates for Louisiana are at record-levels for corn, cotton, rice and soybeans. Although wet conditions got the cotton harvest season off to a slow start even with the greatly reduced acreage, farmers are getting outstanding yields.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 670,000 bales, up 3 percent from last month but down 46 percent from 2006. Acreage expected for harvest is 325,000 acres. The expected yield per acre, at 990 pounds, is up 30 pounds from last month and up 44 pounds from 2006. If realized, this will be the highest yield in the state's history, edging past the record set in 2003 by 23 pounds.

Louisiana's **corn** production is forecast at 124.1 million bushels, up 6 percent from the previous month and up 206 percent from 2006. An estimated 730,000 acres will be harvested for grain, up 440,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre, at 170 bushels, is the highest yield on record, surpassing the previous record, set in 2001, by 22 bushels per acre. Yield is up 10 bushels from last month and up 30 bushels from a year ago.

Soybean production is expected to total 23.6 million bushels in Louisiana, up 4 percent from the September estimate but down 20 percent from a year ago. An estimated 590,000 acres will be harvested, up 10,000 acres from last month but down 30 percent from 2006. Yield is forecast at a record 40 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from the previous month and up 5 bushels from the previous record set last year.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 22.6 million cwt, up 1 percent from the September estimate and up 12 percent from 2006. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 373,000 acres. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,050 pounds, up 50 pounds from last month and up 230 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, surpassing the previous record of 5,900 pounds per acre set in 2005.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.2 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but up 3 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 420,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 29 net tons per acre, unchanged from the September estimate but up 1.7 tons from 2006.

Sorghum production is estimated at 23.5 million bushels in the state, compared to 8.4 million bushels last year. Sorghum harvested acreage was revised to 245,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from the June estimate. Yield is forecast at 96 bushels per acre, the same as both the previous month's and last year's estimate.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.2 million tons, up 7 percent from the August estimate and up 19 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 400,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from 2006. Yield, at 2.9 tons per acre, is expected to be up 0.4 ton from last year.

Louisiana's **pecan** production is forecast at 12.0 million pounds, compared to 21.0 million pounds last year.

United States Crop Prospects

All Cotton production is forecast at 18.2 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from last month but down 16 percent from last year's 21.6 million bales. Yield is expected to average 826 pounds per harvested acre, up 15 pounds from last month and up 12 pounds from 2006. If realized, the yield will be the third largest on record. Harvested area of all cotton is expected to total 10.5 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 17 percent from last year. **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 17.4 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from last month but down 17 percent from last year.

Corn production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and 26 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 154.7 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from September but 5.6 bushels above last year. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record, behind the 160.4 bushel yield in 2004. Production would be the largest on record as growers expect to harvest the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Forecast yields are higher than last year across the Great Plains, central Corn Belt

and Delta where adequate rainfall during much of the season provided favorable growing conditions. Expected yields across the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, Northeast, and mid-Atlantic states are down from last year as drought conditions during much of the growing season reduced soil moisture levels and stressed the crop.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.60 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast and down 19 percent from last year's record high. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but down 1.3 bushels from last year.

Updates to planted acreage were made in several States based on administrative data. Planted area was updated to 63.7 million acres, a decrease of less than 1 percent from the June forecast and down 16 percent from 2006. Area for harvest is forecast at 62.8 million acres, down less than 1 percent from September and down 16 percent from last year. Record high yields are forecast in Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska and South Dakota along with a record tying yield in North Dakota. The October 1 objective yield data for the combined seven major soybean producing States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio) indicate a slightly lower pod count compared with last year. Pod counts are up from last year in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska but down from last year in the other four major producing states.

Rice: Production is forecast at 197 million cwt, up 3 percent from the September forecast and up 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 2.73 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 3 percent from last year. As of October 1, the U.S. yield is forecast at 7,215 pounds per acre, up 191 pounds per acre from last month and up 347 pounds from last year.

If realized, this will surpass the previous record high yield of 6,988 pounds per acre set in 2004. Record high yields are expected in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. In Missouri, the expected yield would equal the record high set in 2004.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2007 is forecast at 30.4 million tons, unchanged from the September forecast but up 3 percent from 2006. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 883,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 2007 crop year, unchanged from September but 14,600 acres less than last year. Yield is forecast at 34.4 tons per acre, the same as last month but up 1.5 tons from last year.

Harvested acreage in Florida is down slightly compared with last year but the yield is up 1 ton, resulting in a production forecast 2 percent above last year. The crop in Louisiana follows the same trend with harvested acreage down 15,000 acres, yield up 1.7 tons and production up 3 percent from 2006. Yields are forecast above last year in all producing states except Texas, where the yield is expected to decline 0.3 ton.

Sorghum: Production is forecast at 501 million bushels, up 1 percent from last month and up 81 percent from last year. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several states. Planted area was updated to 7.70 million acres, down less than 1 percent from June but up 18 percent from 2006. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 6.70 million acres, up 4,000 acres from last month and up 36 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, the yield is forecast at 74.8 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from September and up 18.6 bushels from last year. If realized, this would be the highest yield on record.

All Hay: Production is forecast at 148.0 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 4 percent from 2006. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.39 tons, up 0.06 ton from last year.

Pecans: The October 1, 2007 forecast of pecan utilized production is 320 million pounds (in-shell basis), up 55 percent from last year's crop and 14 percent above 2005. Improved varieties are expected to produce 260 million pounds or 81 percent of the total, while native and seedling varieties, at 59.2 million pounds, make up the remaining 19 percent. The 2007 crop is expected to be larger than last year's in most producing states mainly because it is a high year in the alternate bearing pattern typical of pecans. Production is lower than last year in Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri due to a severe Easter freeze, and in Louisiana, which is in a down-cycle production season.

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA

October 1, 2007

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007		2006	2007
Corn for grain	290	730	140	170	bushels	40,600	124,100
Upland Cotton	630	325	946	990	lbs:bales	1,241	670
Rice	345	373	5,820	6,050	lbs:cwt	20,093	22,567
Sorghum for grain	87	245	96	96	bushels	8,352	23,520
Soybeans	840	590	35	40	bushels	29,400	23,600
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	435	420	27.3	29.0	net tons	11,876	12,180
Hay, all	390	400	2.5	2.9	tons	975	1,160
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	21,000	12,000

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES

October 1, 2007

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007		2006	2007
Corn for grain	70,648	86,071	149.1	154.7	bushels	10,534,868	13,318,102
Upland Cotton	12,408	10,254	806	813	lbs:bales	20,822	17,378
Rice	2,821	2,731	6,868	7,215	lbs:cwt	193,736	197,051
Sorghum for grain	4,937	6,702	56.2	74.8	bushels	277,538	501,457
Soybeans	74,602	62,818	42.7	41.4	bushels	3,188,247	2,598,046
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	898.1	883.5	32.9	34.4	net tons	29,580	30,411
Hay, all	60,807	61,789	2.33	2.39	tons	141,666	147,964
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	206,300	319,605

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