



# Press Release

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
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On: March 1 Crop Report

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## CORN AND SORGHUM ACREAGE EXPECTED TO DOUBLE

“Planting intentions from our March 1 survey show Louisiana’s corn and sorghum acreages may be at least double their 2006 levels,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “As the demand for ethanol increases and with the high prices producers are expected to receive for these two crops, the increase in acreage is not a surprise.” Crisp also noted that planting intentions for rice are above the 2006 level, which was the lowest planted acreage on record.

“The prospective planting intentions reflect the current economic and weather conditions as of March 1,” Crisp cautions. “Actual acreage planted may increase or decrease based on what happens during the rest of the planting season.” A June 1 survey will be conducted, and planted acreage updates will be released from that survey on June 29, 2007.

**Corn** planted acreage is expected to total 700,000 acres, up 400,000 acres, or 133 percent from a year ago. This would be the highest planted acreage since 1998, when the state also planted 700,000 acres.

**Grain sorghum** intentions indicate acreage will total 180,000, up 90,000 acres, or 100 percent, from 2006.

**Cotton** growers intend to plant 380,000 acres, down 255,000 acres, or 40 percent, from a year ago. This is the lowest planted acreage for the state since 1975, when the state planted 320,000 acres.

**Soybean** planted acreage is expected to decrease 28 percent from last year, to 630,000 acres. If realized, this will be the lowest planted acreage since 1964, when 508,000 acres were planted.

**Rice** planted acreage is expected to increase to 360,000 acres, 3 percent above last year. This will be the second lowest planted acreage on record. The lowest planted acreage was set last year when the state planted 350,000 acres. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 350,000 acres. Producers intend to plant 10,000 acres of medium grain varieties, the same as in 2006.

**Sweet potato** planted acreage, at 16,000 acres, is expected to drop 11 percent from a year ago.

**Winter wheat** acreage seeded last fall is estimated at 220,000 acres, up 91 percent from seedings for the 2006 crop.

An estimated 440,000 acres of **hay** will be harvested, up 13 percent from last year.

The first 2007 estimate of **sugarcane** acreage for harvest will be available on June 29, 2007.

**The U.S. Corn** acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 90.5 million acres, up 15 percent from 2006 and 11 percent higher than 2005.

**U.S. Grain sorghum** area in 2007 is estimated at 7.1 million acres, up 9 percent from 2006.

The **U.S.** planted area for **all cotton** in 2007 is expected to total 12.1 million acres, down 20 percent from 2006. **Upland cotton** acreage is expected to total 11.9 million acres, down 21 percent from last year.

**U.S. Soybean** planted area is estimated at 67.1 million acres, down 11 percent from 2006 acreage.

**Rice** planted area for the **U.S.** is expected to total 2.6 million acres, 7 percent below last year’s planted acreage and 22 percent below the 2005 level.

**Sweet potato** acreage for the **U.S.** is estimated at 92,900 acres for the 2007 season, down 3 percent from last year but 2 percent above 2005.

**The U.S. all wheat** planted area is expected to total 60.3 million acres, up 5 percent from 2006. The 2007 **winter wheat** planted area, at 44.5 million acres, is 10 percent above last year.

**U.S.** producers expect to harvest 63.1 million acres of **all hay** in 2007, up 4 percent from last year.

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