



# Press Release

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

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In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

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## Corn and Sorghum Acreages Exceed March Intentions

“Corn, sorghum and rice planted acreages exceeded the levels intended by Louisiana farmers in March of this year,” according to Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Excellent corn prices associated with the high demand for ethanol were cited as the main reasons for the big jump in acreage. “Cotton and soybeans lost most of the acreage gained by corn this year,” Crisp continued.

**Corn** planted acreage, at 750,000 acres, is up 450,000 acres, or 150 percent from a year ago and up 50,000 from March intentions. This is the highest planted acreage since 1950, when the state planted 853,000 acres.

**Grain sorghum** planted acreage is estimated at 210,000 acres, up 120,000 acres or 133 percent from 2006 and up 30,000 acres from March intentions.

**Sugarcane** acreage for harvest is estimated at 430,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. This is the lowest harvested acres for sugar and seed since 1997 when the state harvested 410,000 acres.

**Cotton** planted acreage is expected to total 340,000 acres, down 46 percent from last year and down 11 percent from March intentions. This will be the lowest planted acreage since 1975, when 320,000 acres were planted.

**Rice** planted acreage is estimated at 390,000 acres, up 11 percent from 2006 and up 40,000 acres from March intentions. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 380,000 acres and medium grain for the remaining 10,000 acres.

**Soybean** planted acreage is expected to decrease 31 percent from last year, to 600,000 acres. If realized this will be the lowest planted acreage since 1964, when 508,000 acres were planted.

**Sweet potato** planted acreage, at 16,000 acres, is down 2,000 acres from a year ago.

An estimated 220,000 acres were planted to **winter wheat**, up 105,000 acres or 91 percent from a year ago. Of these, an estimated 210,000 acres were harvested for grain.

All **hay** acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 400,000 acres, up 10,000 acres or 3 percent from 2006.

**The U.S. Corn** planted acreage for all purposes is estimated at 92.9 million acres, up 19 percent from 2006 and up 3 percent from March intentions.

**U.S. Grain sorghum** planted area in 2007 is estimated at 7.8 million acres, up 19 percent from 2006 and up 9 percent from March intentions.

**U.S. Sugarcane** area for harvest as sugar and seed during the 2007 crop year is estimated at 891,700 acres, down 1 percent from 2006.

The **U.S.** planted area for **all cotton** in 2007 is estimated at 11.1 million acres, down 28 percent from 2006 and down 9 percent from intended plantings in March. **Upland cotton** acreage totaled 10.8 million acres, down 28 percent from last year.

**Rice** planted area for the **U.S.** is expected to total 2.7 million acres, 3 percent below last year’s planted acreage.

**U.S. Soybean** planted area is estimated at 64.1 million acres, down 15 percent from 2006 and down 5 percent from the area intended in March. Area for harvest, at 63.3 million acres, is down 15 percent from 2006.

**Sweet potato** acreage for the **U.S.** is estimated at 96,500 acres for the 2007 season, up 1 percent from 2006.

**The U.S. all wheat** planted area is estimated at 60.5 million acres, up 6 percent from 2006. Harvested area is expected to total 52.5 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. The 2007 **winter wheat** planted area, at 45.1 million acres, is 11 percent above last year.

**U.S.** producers expect to harvest 61.8 million acres of **all hay** in 2007, up 2 percent from last year.