



Press Release

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Louisiana Field Office · 5825 Florida Blvd · Baton Rouge, LA 70806 · (225) 922-1362 · www.nass.usda.gov

On: March 1 Crop Report

For Information Contact:

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2008

Terry Mathews
800.256.4485

ACREAGE EXPECTED TO DECREASE FOR SEVERAL CROPS

“Louisiana farmers’ planting intentions for 2008 point to another unusual year, based on our March 1 crop intentions survey,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). “The projected cotton and rice planted acreages will be the lowest on record, probably due to the relatively higher prices of competing crops.” Crisp also noted the increase in soybean planted acreage from last year isn’t surprising considering recent prices.

“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.” NASS will conduct a June 1 survey to update planted acreage estimates and will release estimates from that survey on June 30, 2008.

Louisiana’s **corn** planted acreage is expected to total 560,000 acres, down 180,000 acres (24 percent) from a year ago. The **U.S. Corn** acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 86 million acres, down 8 percent from 2007 but 10 percent higher than 2006.

Grain sorghum intentions indicate acreage will total 150,000 acres in the state, down 100,000 acres (40 percent) from 2007. **U.S. grain sorghum** area in 2008 is estimated at 7.4 million acres, down 4 percent from 2007.

Cotton growers intend to plant 280,000 acres, down 55,000 acres (16 percent) from a year ago. This will be the lowest planted acreage on record. The **U.S.** planted area for **all cotton** in 2008 is expected to total 9.4 million acres, down 13 percent from 2007. **Upland cotton** acreage is expected to total 9.2 million acres, down 13 percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **soybean** planted acreage is expected to increase by 305,000 acres (50 percent) from last year, to 910,000 acres. **U.S. Soybean** planted area is estimated at 74.8 million acres, up 18 percent from 2007.

Rice planted acreage in Louisiana is expected to drop to 340,000 acres, down 40,000 acres (11 percent) from last year. This will be the lowest planted acreage on record. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 315,000 acres. Producers intend to plant 25,000 acres of medium grain varieties. **Rice** planted area for the **U.S.** is expected to total 2.8 million acres, virtually unchanged from last year’s planted acreage but 2 percent below the 2006 level.

Sweet potato planted acreage in the state, at 16,000 acres, is the same as a year ago. **Sweet potato** acreage for the **U.S.** is estimated at 103,800 acres for the 2008 season, up 3 percent from last year and 9 percent above 2006.

Winter wheat acreage seeded last fall is estimated at 400,000 acres, up 165,000 acres (70 percent) from seedings for the 2007 crop. The **U.S. all wheat** planted area is expected to total 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 **winter wheat** planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year.

An estimated 420,000 acres of **hay** will be harvested, up 20,000 acres (5 percent) from last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of **all hay** in 2008, down 2 percent from last year.

The first 2008 estimate of **sugarcane** acreage for harvest will be available on June 30, 2008.