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Cotton Yield Expected to be the Second Highest on Record

Despite above normal temperatures and dry weather conditions this summer, the 2006 cotton crop is expected to post the second highest yield on record in Louisiana. "It's better than it looked earlier," said **Nathan Crisp**, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service. "Rain has been spotty, but showers have helped, and variety improvements have helped," Crisp continued. Crisp added that sugarcane and hay yields are expected to be up while the other crop yields are expected to be down from 2005.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 1.2 million bales, up 102,000 bales from 2005. An estimated 650,000 acres are expected to be harvested, up 50,000 acres from last year. At 886 pounds, the yield per acre forecast is up 8 pounds from last year. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 19.5 million bales, down 16 percent from last year's 23.3 million bales.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 20.8 million cwt, down 33 percent from 2005. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 355,000 acres, down 170,000 acres from the 2005 crop. This will be the lowest harvested acres since 1914 when 320,000 acres were harvested. Yield per acre is forecast at 5,850 pounds, down 50 pounds from last year's record yield. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 197 million cwt, down 12 percent from last year and down 15 percent from 2004.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 10.68 million net tons, up 2 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 24 net tons per acre, up 5 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 445,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2005. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2006 is forecast 28.2 million net tons, 6 percent above last year.

Soybean production is expected to total 25.7 million bushels in Louisiana, down 11 percent from 2005. An estimated 780,000 acres will be harvested, down 8 percent from 2005. Yield is forecast at 33 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year's record - tying yield. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.93 billion bushels, down 5 percent from 2005.

Louisiana's **corn** production is forecast at 37.7 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. An estimated 290,000 acres will be harvested for grain, a 12 percent drop from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 130 bushels, is down 6 bushels from 2005. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, down 1 percent from 2005.

Sorghum production is estimated at 7.49 million bushels in the state, down 14 percent from 2005. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 78,000 acres, 10,000 acres less than last year's 88,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 96 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from last year's record yield. U.S. production for **sorghum** is forecast at 296 million bushels, down 25 percent from last year.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 875,000 tons, up 9 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 350,000 acres, unchanged from 2005. Yield, at 2.5 tons per acre, is down .2 ton from last year. U.S. **all hay** production is forecast at 142.3 million tons, down 5 percent from 2005.

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