



# Press Release

National  
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## Rice and Soybean Production Expected to Increase From 2007

“For the second straight year, Louisiana’s agricultural landscape has an unfamiliar look,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Last year corn prices drove the planting decisions. This year rice and soybean prices are at record highs, and that has contributed to the all-time low in cotton acreage planted in the state,” Crisp continued.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 23.9 million cwt, up 3 percent from 2007. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 405,000 acres, up 27,000 acres from the 2007 crop. Yield per acre is forecast at 5,900 pounds, down 240 pounds from last year’s record yield of 6,140 pounds per acre. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 204.9 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year and up 6 percent from 2006.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 33.0 million bushels in Louisiana, up 33 percent from 2007. An estimated 970,000 acres will be harvested, up 380,000 acres from 2007. Yield is forecast at 34 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels from last year’s record yield. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 3.0 billion bushels, up 15 percent from 2007.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 77.5 million bushels, down 36 percent from a year ago. An estimated 500,000 acres will be harvested for grain, down 230,000 acres from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 155 bushels, is down 10 bushels from the record yield set in 2007. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 2007.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 540,000 bales, down 23 percent from 2007. An estimated 285,000 acres are expected to be harvested, down 45,000 acres from last year, and the lowest harvested cotton acreage on record for Louisiana. At 909 pounds, the yield per acre forecast is down 108 pounds from 2007. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 13.2 million bales, down 28 percent from last year’s 18.4 million bales.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 11.3 million net tons, down 11 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 405,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2007. Yield is forecast at 28 net tons per acre, down 8 percent from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2008 is forecast at 30.4 million net tons, 2 percent above last year.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 9 million bushels in the state, down 62 percent from 2007. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 95,000 acres, down 150,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 95 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last year. U.S. production for **sorghum** is forecast at 410 million bushels, down 19 percent from last year.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.2 million tons, unchanged from last year. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 440,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from 2007. Yield, at 2.8 tons per acre, is down .2 ton from last year. U.S. **all hay** production is forecast at 77 million tons, down 1 percent from 2007.