

On: September 1 Crop Report

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## Louisiana Cotton Yield Exceeding Early Expectations

“Louisiana’s 2006 cotton crop is expected to yield 890 pounds per acre, the second highest yield on record for the state,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Although the early season got off to a slow start, the hot, dry weather has allowed farmers to get ahead of the normal harvesting schedule for most crops,” Crisp added.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 1.15 million bales, down 4 percent from last month but up 5 percent from 2005. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest was revised to 620,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. The expected yield per acre, at 890 pounds, is up 4 pounds from last month and up 12 pounds from 2005. If realized, this will be the second largest yield in the state’s history. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 19.5 million bales, down 16 percent from last year.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 10.44 million net tons, down 2 percent from the previous month but slightly above last year. Yield is forecast at 24 net tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 estimate but up 1.1 net tons from 2005. Estimated production is down from last month as harvested acreage was revised for sugar and seed, from 445,000 acres to 435,000 acres. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2006 is forecast 28.4 million net tons, 7 percent above last year.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 19.8 million cwt, down 4 percent from the August 1 estimate and down 36 percent from 2005. Rice harvested acreage was revised to 345,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. This will be lowest harvested acres since 1914 when 320,000 acres were harvested. Yield per acre is forecast at 5,750 pounds, down 100 pounds from last month and 150 pounds below last year’s record yield. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 193 million cwt, down 13 percent from last year.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 24.96 million bushels in Louisiana, down 3 percent from the August 1 estimate and down 14 percent from a year ago. An estimated 780,000 acres will be harvested, down 8 percent from 2005. Yield is forecast at 32 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last month and down 2 bushels from last year. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 3.09 billion bushels, up slightly from the 2005 crop.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 37.99 million bushels, up 1 percent from last month, but down 15 percent from 2005. An estimated 290,000 acres will be harvested for grain, a 12 percent drop from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 131 bushels, is up 1 bushel from last month but down 5 bushels from a year ago. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 11.1 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and fractionally above 2005.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 7.49 million bushels in the state, compared to 8.71 million bushels last year. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 78,000 acres, 10,000 acres fewer than last year’s 88,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 96 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month but down 3 bushels from 2005. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 305 million bushels, down 23 percent from 2005.

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