



Press Release

National
Agricultural
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Service

In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture

Louisiana Field Office · 5825 Florida Blvd · Baton Rouge, LA 70806 · (225) 922-1362 · www.nass.usda.gov/la

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For Information Contact:

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Terry Mathews
1-800-256-4485

Hurricane Gustav Hits Louisiana Crop Yields

“Hurricane Gustav hit Louisiana’s farmers hard across most of the state,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Although all crops took a major hit from the hurricane, the total damage is still being assessed, and we will have a better perspective on the crop damage next month,” Crisp continued.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 460,000 bales, down 15 percent from the August 1 estimate and down 34 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production since 1980, when the state also produced 460,000 bales. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest is forecast at 285,000 acres, down 45,000 acres from a year ago. The expected yield per acre, at 775 pounds, is down 134 pounds from the August 1 forecast and down 242 pounds from 2007. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 13.4 million bales, down 27 percent from last year’s 18.4 million bales.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 10.9 million net tons, down 4 percent from the previous month and down 14 percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 405,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 27 net tons per acre, down 1 net ton from the August 1 estimate and down 3.4 net tons from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2008 is forecast at 30 million net tons, up slightly from last year.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 26.5 million cwt, up 11 percent from the previous month and up 14 percent from 2007. Estimated production is up from last month as rice harvested acreage was revised to 465,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre is forecast at 5,700 pounds, down 200 pounds from previous month and down 440 pounds from last year’s record yield. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 206.9 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year and up 7 percent from 2006.

Soybean production is expected to total 31.0 million bushels in Louisiana, down 6 percent from the August 1 estimate but up 25 percent from 2007. An estimated 970,000 acres will be harvested, up 380,000 acres from 2007. Yield is forecast at 32 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from the previous month and down 10 bushels from last year’s record yield. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.9 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 2007.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 75.0 million bushels, down 3 percent from the previous month’s estimate and down 38 percent from last year. An estimated 500,000 acres will be harvested for grain, down 230,000 acres from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 150 bushels, is down 5 bushels from last month and down 15 bushels from last year’s record yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 12.1 billion bushels, down 8 percent from 2007.

Sorghum production is estimated at 8.8 million bushels in the state, down 2 percent from the August 1 estimate and down 63 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 93 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last month and down 4 bushels from a year ago. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 425.6 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year.