



# Press Release

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## Louisiana Crop Yields Setting New Records

“With harvest season coming to an end for many crops, farmers are seeing better yields than they expected. Our October yield estimates for Louisiana are at record-levels for corn, cotton, rice and soybeans,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Although wet conditions got the cotton harvest season off to a slow start even with the greatly reduced acreage, farmers are getting outstanding yields,” Crisp added.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 670,000 bales, up 3 percent from last month but down 46 percent from 2006. Acreage expected for harvest is 325,000 acres. The expected yield per acre, at 990 pounds, is up 30 pounds from last month and up 44 pounds from 2006. If realized, this will be the highest yield in the state’s history, edging past the record set in 2003 by 23 pounds. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 17.4 million bales, down 17 percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 124.1 million bushels, up 6 percent from the previous month and up 206 percent from 2006. An estimated 730,000 acres will be harvested for grain, up 440,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre, at 170 bushels, is the highest yield on record, surpassing the previous record, set in 2001, by 22 bushels per acre. Yield is up 10 bushels from last month and up 30 bushels from a year ago. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up 26 percent from 2006.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 23.6 million bushels in Louisiana, up 4 percent from the September estimate but down 20 percent from a year ago. An estimated 590,000 acres will be harvested, up 10,000 acres from last month but down 30 percent from 2006. Yield is forecast at a record 40 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from the previous month and up 5 bushels from the previous record set last year. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.6 billion bushels, down 19 percent from 2006.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 22.6 million cwt, up 1 percent from the September estimate and up 12 percent from 2006. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 373,000 acres. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,050 pounds, up 50 pounds from last month and up 230 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, surpassing the previous record of 5,900 pounds per acre set in 2005. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 197.1 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.2 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but up 3 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 420,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 29 net tons per acre, unchanged from the September estimate but up 1.7 tons from 2006. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2007 is forecast at 30.4 million net tons, 3 percent above last year.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 23.5 million bushels in the state, compared to 8.4 million bushels last year. Sorghum harvested acreage was revised to 245,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from the June estimate. Yield is forecast at 96 bushels per acre, the same as both the previous month’s and last year’s estimate. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 501.5 million bushels, up 81 percent from 2006.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.2 million tons, up 7 percent from the August estimate and up 19 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 400,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from 2006. Yield, at 2.9 tons per acre, is expected to be up 0.4 ton from last year. U.S. **all hay** production is forecast at 148 million tons, up 4 percent from 2006.

Louisiana’s **pecan** production is forecast at 12.0 million pounds, compared to 21.0 million pounds last year. U.S. **all pecan** production is forecast at 319.6 million pounds, up 55 percent from 2006.