



News Release

In Cooperation with Clemson University

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PLANTING INTENTIONS UP FOR SOYBEANS, DOWN FOR CORN AND COTTON

The March Prospective Plantings Survey, recently completed by the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office, indicated that SOUTH CAROLINA farmers intend to plant less corn, cotton and tobacco this year while soybeans, peanuts, small grain and hay planting intentions are up from 2007.

CORN growers currently expect to plant 340,000 acres in 2008. This is down 15 percent (60,000 acres) from the acreage planted in 2007, but up 10 percent from 2006.

COTTON growers currently intend to plant 120,000 acres in 2008. This is down 33 percent (60,000 acres) from 2007, and 60 percent below 2006. If realized, cotton acreage will be the lowest since 1989.

TOBACCO acreage for harvest in 2008 is expected to total 20,000 acres. This is down 2 percent from 2007, and down 13 percent from 2006.

SOYBEAN acreage is expected to total 530,000 acres in 2008 – up 18 percent (80,000 acres) from 2007 and up 33 percent from 2006.

WHEAT acreage planted for the 2008 crop is set at 190,000 acres - up 19 percent (30,000 acres) from 2007 and up 46 percent from 2006.

SORGHUM acreage for this year is expected to total 13,000 acres, up 30 percent from 2007 and up 18 percent from 2006.

OATS, including both fall and spring plantings, are expected to total 45,000 acres - up 36 percent from 2007 and 2006.

PEANUT acreage for 2008 is expected to total 65,000 acres, up 10 percent from 2007 and 2006.

HAY acres for harvest this year are expected to total 350,000 acres, up 6 percent (20,000 acres) from 2007 but down 3 percent from 2006.

SWEETPOTATO planted acreage is expected to be 600 acres, unchanged from 2007, but down 14 percent from 2006.

UNITED STATES 2008 PLANTED ACRES AND PERCENT OF 2007 1/

Soybeans	74.8	Mil. Ac.,	118%	Sorghum	7.42	Mil. Ac.,	96%
Corn	86.0	Mil. Ac.,	92%	Hay, All	60.6	Mil. Ac.,	98%
Cotton, Upland	9.19	Mil. Ac.,	87%	Peanuts	1.43	Mil. Ac.,	116%
Wheat, Winter	46.8	Mil. Ac.,	104%	Tobacco, F.C.	221	Thou. Ac.	99%
Oats, Planted	3.42	Mil. Ac.,	91%	Sweetpotatoes	103.8	Thou. Ac.	103%

1/ All Hay and Tobacco acreages for harvest.