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COTTON CROP UP FROM LAST MONTH

Based on the December 1 Cotton Ginning Survey, **SOUTH CAROLINA'S COTTON** production is expected to total 155,000 bales, announced the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office. This is up 15,000 bales from last month, but 278,000 bales below 2006. Acres for harvest, at 178,000, is down 120,000 acres from 2006. This year's expected average yield per acre of 418 pounds is up 40 pounds from November 2007, but 279 pounds below 2006.

All cotton production in the **UNITED STATES** is forecast at 19.0 million 480-pound bales, up 1 percent from last month but down 12 percent from last year's 21.6 million bales. Yield is expected to average 864 pounds per harvested acre, up 5 pounds from last month and up 50 pounds from 2006. If realized, the yield will be the largest on record surpassing the previous record of 855 pounds per acre set in 2004. Harvested area of all cotton is expected to total 10.5 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 17 percent from last year.

Upland cotton production is forecast at 18.2 million 480-pound bales, up 1 percent from last month but down 13 percent from last year. A record high yield of 850 pounds per acre is forecast for upland cotton. Record yields are expected in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. American-Pima production is forecast at a record high 831,500 bales, up 2 percent from last month and up 9 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested area is expected to total 289,000 acres, unchanged from last month but down 11 percent from 2006.