



# News Release

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In Cooperation with Clemson University

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## **SOUTH CAROLINA VEGETABLE AND MELON ACREAGE UP**

South Carolina's harvested fresh market vegetable and melon acreage for 6 major crops totaled 15,900 for the 2006 crop year according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Total acreage was up 7 percent from 2005's acreage of 14,900. Fresh market snap beans acreage for harvest was estimated at 1,200 acres, up 20 percent from a year ago. Harvested acreage for fresh market cucumbers was 1,800 acres, up 6 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage of fresh market tomatoes at 3,000 acres was unchanged from the 2005 acreage. Harvested acreage for cantaloups was 1,100 acres, also unchanged from the previous year. Squash harvested acreage was 1,300 acres, up 18 percent from the previous year. Watermelon acreage for harvest was set at 7,500 acres, up 7 percent from the previous year.

South Carolina's contracted cucumbers for pickles acreage for 2006 was set at 2,800 harvested acres, down 32 percent from 2005 and 30 percent below 2004.

For the 2006 crop year, South Carolina was ranked in the top 10 in the total production of the following vegetables: 7<sup>th</sup> in watermelons, 8<sup>th</sup> in cantaloups, 8<sup>th</sup> in cucumbers, 10<sup>th</sup> in snap beans and 10<sup>th</sup> in fresh market tomatoes.

## **UNITED STATES VEGETABLE ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION DOWN**

Fresh market vegetable and melon production for the 24 selected crops estimated in 2006 totaled 466 million hundredweight, down 1 percent from last year's comparable States. Harvested area covered 1.91 million acres, down less than 1 percent from comparable States in 2005. Value of the 2006 crop is estimated at 10.2 billion dollars, up 3 percent from comparable States a year ago. The three largest crops, in terms of production, are onions, head lettuce, and watermelons, which combined to account for 37 percent of the total production. Tomatoes, head lettuce, and onions claim the highest values, accounting for 34 percent of the total value when combined.

For the 24 selected vegetables and melons estimated in 2006, California continues to be the leading fresh market State, accounting for 44 percent of the harvested area, 48 percent of production, and 51 percent of the value.