



News Release

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with Clemson University

South Carolina Field Office · 1835 Assembly St, Rm 1008 · Columbia, SC 29201 · (803) 765-5333 ·
www.nass.usda.gov

Released on July 10, 2007

Contact: Rhonda Brandt, Director (803)765-5333
Wendy Adams, Agricultural Statistician
nass-sc@nass.usda.gov

WATERMELON ACREAGE DOWN and CANTALOUPE ACREAGE UNCHANGED

SOUTH CAROLINA'S summer fresh market vegetable producers plan to harvest 7,000 acres of **watermelons** during the May through August 2007 harvesting period, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office. This year's harvested acreage projection is down 7 percent from last summer's 7,500 acres. Fresh market producers plan to harvest 1,100 acres of **cantaloups** unchanged from last year's acreage.

U. S. FRESH VEGETABLES HARVESTED ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the summer quarter is forecast to be 296,600 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Acreage declines in snap beans, broccoli, celery, head lettuce, and bell peppers more than offset acreage increases in cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Cauliflower area remains unchanged. Area forecast for melon harvest is 123,800 acres, up 5 percent from last year. Cantaloupe area is forecast at 38,300 acres, 2 percent below 2006. Honeydew area, at 13,900 acres, is down 7 percent from last year. Watermelon area, at 71,600 acres, is 13 percent above a year ago.

SC CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES ACREAGE DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S producers have planted or expect to plant 3,000 contract acres of **cucumbers for pickles**, down 14 percent from last year's 3,500 acres.

PROCESSED VEGETABLE CONTRACTED ACREAGE UP

Vegetable processors have contracted 1.21 million acres to be planted to the 5 major vegetable crops (snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and tomatoes). This is up 1 percent from last year for comparable States. Acreage increases for cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and tomatoes more than offset declines in snap beans and sweet corn. Green pea contracted production, at 409,940 tons, up 1 percent from 2006. Contracted tomato production is forecast at 12.3 million tons, up 17 percent from 2006 for comparable States. Pickle processors contracted 91,900 acres for harvest in 2007, up 7 percent from last year for comparable States.