

**Highlights In This Report**

Louisiana 2003 Crop Acreage and Production  
Grain and Rice Stocks  
Winter Wheat Seedings

**Louisiana 2003 Crop Acreage and Production**

Louisiana agriculture finally has something to smile about again, as evidenced by the 2003 end-of-year crop estimates released by the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. New record yields were set for five crops in 2003.

**Cotton production** is estimated at 1,015,000 bales, up 37 percent from the previous year. An estimated 525,000 acres were planted in 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Louisiana farmers harvested an estimated 510,000 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Yield per acre was 955 pounds, an increase of 238 pounds from 2002. This is the highest yield ever recorded in the state, shattering the previous record yield, 828 pounds per acre, set in 1991.

**All rice production** is estimated at 26.4 million cwt, down 10 percent from 2002. Production of long grain varieties is estimated at 25.2 million cwt, and production of medium grain varieties is estimated at 1.16 million cwt. Planted acreage for rice is estimated at 455,000 acres, down 16 percent from 2002. Rice harvested acreage is estimated at 450,000 acres, down 16 percent from 2002. The statewide yield averaged 5,870 pounds per acre, breaking the record set last year. Record keeping for rice yield began in 1895.

**Soybean production** is estimated at 25.2 million bushels, up 19 percent from 2002. Total planted acreage was down 5 percent from a year earlier, to an estimated 760,000 acres. Louisiana farmers harvested an estimated 740,000 acres. The 34 bushel per acre yield exceeds the previous record of 33 bushels set in 2001.

Production of **corn for grain** is estimated at 67.0 million bushels, down 2 percent from 2002. Total planted acreage is estimated at 520,000 acres, down 10 percent from 2002. An estimated 500,000 acres were harvested for grain, down 11 percent from 2002. Yield per acre, at 134 bushels, was 12 bushels up from 2002.

Production of **sorghum for grain** is estimated at 14.0 million bushels compared to 13.4 million in 2002. Total planted acreage is estimated at 170,000 acres, of which 165,000 acres were harvested for grain. Yield per acre, at 85 bushels, was up 4 bushels from 2002.

**Sugarcane production** for sugar and seed is estimated at 13.2 million net tons, down 6 percent from 2002. Yield per acre, at 27 net tons, was down 1.3 net tons from a year ago. An estimated 490,000 acres were harvested, down 1 percent from 2002.

**Sweet potato production** is estimated at 3.15 million cwt, up 68 percent from 2002. An estimated 19,000 acres were planted in 2003, down 10 percent from 2002. Harvested acreage is estimated at 18,000 acres, up 20 percent from 2002. The statewide yield averaged 175 cwt per acre, breaking the record set in 1997 when the state averaged 170 cwt per acre.

**All hay production** in 2003 is estimated at 1.10 million tons compared to 1.13 million the previous year. An estimated 380,000 acres were harvested in 2003, down 70,000 acres from the previous year. Yield was 2.9 tons per acre, exceeding the state record of 2.8 tons per acre set in 2001.

**Louisiana: Acreage, Yield and Production, 2003, with Comparisons**

Commodity	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Unit		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	Yield	Prod.	2002	2003
	-----Thousand Acres-----		-----Units-----				-----Thousand Units-----	
Corn, Grain	560	500	122	134	bushels	bushels	68,320	67,000
Corn, Silage	10	10	14	16	tons	tons	140	160
Cotton, Lint, All	495	510	717	955	pounds	bales <sup>1</sup>	739	1,015
Cottonseed	---	---	---	---	tons	tons	271	372
Hay, All (baled)	450	380	2.5	2.9	tons	tons	1,125	1,102
Rice, Long Grain	525	430	5,500	5,870	pounds	cwt	28,875	25,241
Rice, Medium	10	20	5,250	5,780	pounds	cwt	525	1,156
Rice, All	535	450	5,500	5,870	pounds	cwt	29,400	26,397
Sorghum, Grain	165	165	81	85	bushels	bushels	13,365	14,025
Sorghum, Silage	1	1	10	11	tons	tons	10	11
Soybeans	660	740	32	34	bushels	bushels	21,120	25,160
Sugarcane, All <sup>2</sup>	495	490	28.3	27.0	net tons	net tons	14,009	13,230
Sweet Potatoes	15	18	125	175	cwt	cwt	1,875	3,150
Wheat, Winter <sup>3</sup>	220	140	40	41	bushels	bushels	8,800	5,740

<sup>1</sup>480-pound net weight bale;

<sup>2</sup>Harvested for sugar and seed;

<sup>3</sup>Estimate carried forward from earlier forecast.

**United States: Acreage, Yield and Production, 2003, with Comparisons**

Commodity	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Unit		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	Yield	Prod.	2002	2003
	-----Thousand Acres-----		-----Units-----				-----Thousand Units-----	
Corn, Grain	69,313	71,139	130.0	142.2	bushels	bushels	9,007,659	10,113,887
Corn, Silage	7,490	6,528	14.0	16.2	tons	tons	104,979	105,864
Cotton, Lint, All	12,426.6	12,058.0	665	725	pounds	bales <sup>1</sup>	17,208.6	18,224.0
Cottonseed	---	---	---	---	tons	tons	6,183.9	6,694.0
Hay, All (baled)	64,497	63,342	2.34	2.48	tons	tons	150,962	157,123
Rice, All	3,207	2,997	6,578	6,645	pounds	cwt	210,960	199,157
Sorghum, Grain	7,299	7,798	50.7	52.7	bushels	bushels	369,758	411,237
Sorghum, Silage	352	343	9.5	10.4	tons	tons	3,360	3,552
Soybeans	72,437	72,321	38.0	33.4	bushels	bushels	2,749,340	2,417,565
Sugarcane, All <sup>2</sup>	1,023.2	996.8	34.7	34.5	net tons	net tons	35,553	34,368
Sweet Potatoes	83.5	92.4	154	172	cwt	cwt	12,865	15,921
Wheat, All	45,917	52,839	35.3	44.2	bushels	bushels	1,619,001	2,336,526
Wheat, Winter <sup>3</sup>	29,751	36,541	38.5	46.7	bushels	bushels	1,145,602	1,707,069

<sup>1</sup>480-pound net weight bale;

<sup>2</sup>Harvested for sugar and seed;

<sup>3</sup>Estimate carried forward from earlier forecast.

## Louisiana Grain Stocks

**Corn** stocks stored off-farm on December 1, 2003, at 20.3 million bushels, were 8 percent less than last year's 22.0 million bushels. On-farm stocks for Louisiana were not published separately, but were included in the U.S. total.

**Soybean** stocks stored off-farm on December 1, 2003, at 8.66 million bushels, were 3 percent above last year's 8.37 million bushels. On-farm stocks for Louisiana were not published separately, but were included in the U.S. total.

**All wheat** stocks stored off-farm on December 1, 2003, at 8.56 million bushels, were down 1 percent from the 8.68 million bushels stored a year ago. On-farm stocks were not published separately, but were included in the U.S. total.

## Louisiana Rice Stocks

Rough rice stocks reported in all positions on December 1, 2003, totaled 12.52 million cwt, down 25 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of rice were estimated at 5.40 million cwt, compared to 8.50 million the previous year. Off-farm stocks totaled 7.12 million cwt, down 14 percent from last year.

## Louisiana and U.S. Grain Stocks, December 1, 2003

Item	Louisiana <sup>1</sup>		United States	
	December 1		December 1	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
<b>Corn</b>	-----Thousand Bushels-----		-----Thousand Bushels-----	
On-Farm			4,800,000	5,286,000
Off-Farm <sup>2</sup>	<u>21,986</u>	<u>20,294</u>	<u>2,837,971</u>	<u>2,658,779</u>
TOTAL			7,637,971	7,944,779
<b>Soybeans</b>				
On-Farm			1,170,000	820,000
Off-Farm <sup>2</sup>	<u>8,374</u>	<u>8,664</u>	<u>943,373</u>	<u>866,381</u>
TOTAL			2,113,373	1,686,381
<b>All-Wheat</b>				
On-Farm			384,800	491,925
Off-Farm <sup>2</sup>	<u>8,678</u>	<u>8,562</u>	<u>935,069</u>	<u>1,029,159</u>
TOTAL			1,319,869	1,521,084

<sup>1</sup>Louisiana on farm stocks and total stocks not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>2</sup>Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

## Louisiana Rice Stocks

Date	On Farms or Farm Warehouses	In Mills and Attached Warehouses	In Warehouses not Attached To Mills	In Ports or in Transit	Total all Positions
	(Domestic Units - 1,000 Cwt)				
	Rough Rice				
December 1, 2002	8,500	1,523	5,826	882	16,731
March 1, 2003	2,400	1/	1/	1/	8,608
August 1, 2003	1/	1/	1/	1/	709
December 1, 2003	5,400	1,106	5,257	753	12,516

<sup>1</sup>Included in unallocated to avoid disclosing individual operations.

## United States Rice Stocks

Date	On Farms or Farm Warehouses	In Mills and Attached Warehouses	In Warehouses not Attached To Mills	In Ports or in Transit	Total all Positions
	(Domestic Units - 1,000 Cwt)				
	Rough Rice				
December 1, 2002	53,220	14,251	88,421	1,178	157,070
March 1, 2003	27,505	11,869	61,514	1,690	102,578
August 1, 2003	1,225	5,749	13,080	17	20,071
December 1, 2003	43,165	13,295	77,989	870	135,319
	Milled Rice				
December 1, 2002	----	4,814	117	2,550	7,481
March 1, 2003	----	4,494	110	2,023	6,627
August 1, 2003	----	3,783	54	737	4,574
December 1, 2003	----	4,859	118	1,639	6,616

## Winter Wheat Seedings

### Winter Wheat Seedings

**Louisiana farmers planted an estimated 190,000 of Winter Wheat for 2004, up 23 percent from 2003.** United States winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2004 is estimated at 43.5 million acres. This is down 3 percent from 2003. Seeding began last August and advanced ahead of the 5-year average pace throughout the fall. Nearly all of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1. Most remaining intended area is in the Southeast and California. Seeding should finish sometime next month in California.

Selected States	Area Planted			
	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	-----1,000 Acres-----			Percent
Arkansas	960	700	680	97
Kansas	9,600	10,400	9,900	95
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>123</b>
Mississippi	250	150	190	127
Texas	6,400	6,600	6,200	94
<b>United States</b>	<b>41,845</b>	<b>44,945</b>	<b>43,464</b>	<b>97</b>

*The Louisiana Farm Reporter (ISSN-0056-7670) is published semi-monthly (Twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Periodicals postage is paid in Baton Rouge, LA and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038.*

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