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Louisiana Prospective Plantings For 2003

As of March 1, 2003, Louisiana's farmers intended to plant more acreage to cotton, soybeans, and sorghum this year compared to last year. Corn, rice, wheat, and sweet potatoes are expected to decrease from the previous year.

These prospective planting intentions reflect the prevailing economic and weather conditions as of March 1, 2003. Actual plantings could shift upward or downward based on conditions for the rest of the planting season. Planted acreage estimates will be updated by a June 1 survey and released on June 30, 2003.

Cotton growers intended to plant 530,000 acres. This total is up 10,000 acres, or 2 percent from a year ago.

Rice planted acreage is expected to decrease to 470,000, down 13 percent from last year. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 460,000 acres. Growers intended to plant 10,000 acres of medium grain varieties, unchanged from 2002.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to increase 8 percent from last year, to 850,000 acres.

Corn planted acreage is expected to total 520,000 acres, down 10 percent from a year ago.

Grain Sorghum intentions indicate acreage will total 240,000, up 60,000 acres from a year ago.

Sweet Potato planted acreage, at 18,000, is down 14 percent from a year ago. This will be the fewest acres planted to sweet potatoes since 1993.

Winter wheat seeded last fall is estimated at 200,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from 2002.

An estimated 460,000 acres of hay will be harvested, up 2 percent from last year.

An estimate of sugarcane acreage for harvest will not be available until June 30, 2003.

United States Prospective Plantings

All Cotton planted area is expected to total 14.3 million acres in 2003, 2 percent more than last year. **Upland** acreage is expected to total 14.1 million acres, also up 2 percent. Growers intend to decrease plantings of American-Pima cotton to 200,000 acres, an 18 percent decline from a year ago.

Rice planting intentions in 2003 are estimated at 3.04 million acres, down 6 percent from 2002 and down 9 percent from 2001. All producing states intend to plant fewer acres to rice in 2003 with the exception of Mississippi which intends to equal their 2002 acreage.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 73.2 million acres, down 1 percent from last year and, if realized, the fewest planted acres since 1998. This is the third consecutive year that soybean acreage has declined in the United States.

Corn growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001. Expected acreage is up in the eastern Corn Belt as growers are switching back to corn after planting soybeans last year when persistent wet weather in the spring prevented them from seeding corn.

Sorghum acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 9.45 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. The largest acreage declines are expected by growers in Kansas and Texas.

Sweet potato growers intend to plant 93,500 acres in 2003, down 4 percent from last year and 5 percent below 2001 for comparable states. Six states expect lower acreage than last year, two are unchanged, and North Carolina growers expect a 5 percent increase.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres in 2003, up 2 percent from 2002. Winter wheat planted area for the 2003 crop is 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002. The 2003 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 14.6 million, down 7 percent from last year. Area planted to Durum wheat is expected to total 2.83 million acres, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Hay producers expect to harvest 63.6 million acres of hay in 2003, down 1 percent from 2002. Harvested acres for 2003 are expected to decrease in 17 states.

Prospective Plantings: Louisiana and United States, March 1, 2002-2003

Crop	Louisiana			United States		
	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change
	-----Thousand Acres-----			-----Thousand Acres-----		
Corn	580	520	-10	79,054	79,022	---
Upland Cotton	520	530	+2	13,719	14,053	+2
Rice	540	470	-13	3,240	3,038	-6
Sorghum	180	240	+33	9,580	9,451	-1
Soybeans	790	850	+8	73,758	73,182	-1
Sweet potatoes	21	18	-14	97.2	93.5	-4
All Wheat	230	200	-13	60,358	61,697	+2
Hay ¹	450	460	+2	64,497	63,552	-1

¹Harvested intentions.

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during February totaled 1.4 million pounds, up 8 percent from January but 7 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,400 head of **cattle** slaughtered during February, up 100 head from January and 200 head above the previous year. Average live weight was 870 pounds, down 16 pounds from the previous month and 43 pounds below February 2002. Total live weight at 1.18 million pounds was 1 percent above the previous month and 4 percent above the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during February totaled 600 head, down 300 head from January and 200 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 510 pounds, up 14 pounds from January and 37 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 320,000 pounds was down 28 percent from January and 13 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during February totaled 2,700 head, up 700 head from January, but 100 head below February 2002. Average live weight was 221 pounds, up 16 pounds from January, but 12 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 588,000 pounds, up 45 percent from January but 11 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during February was 300 head, up 200 head from January but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 106 pounds, up 31 pounds from the previous month but 17 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.50 billion pounds in February, virtually unchanged from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2002.

February 2002 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 2 percent from February 2002. The average live weight was 1,261 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

Veal production totaled 15.8 million pounds, 10 percent above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 83,100 head, up 14 percent from February 2002. The average live weight was 316 pounds, down 10 pounds from February a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.52 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.68 million head, 2 percent above February 2002. The average live weight was 267 pounds, unchanged from February a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production at 15.0 million pounds, was down 16 percent from February 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,200 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 4 pounds from February a year ago.

January-February red meat production was 7.57 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year; veal was up 8 percent; pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 13 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production: Louisiana and United States

Items	Louisiana					United States			
	January	February		January-February		February		January-February	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	1.3	1.2	1.4	2.9	2.7	2,615.6	2,569.8	5,672.6	5,576.7
Calves	0.9	0.8	0.6	1.5	1.5	73.2	83.1	160.9	176.8
Hogs	2.0	2.8	2.7	5.1	4.7	7,501.2	7,680.3	16,161.9	16,467.8
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	259.4	224.2	515.9	463.0
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	1,169	1,134	1,184	2,569	2,353	3,282,512	3,240,026	7,133,967	7,054,326
Calves	443	367	320	736	763	23,889	26,289	51,978	56,063
Hogs	405	657	588	1,154	993	2,000,262	2,047,380	4,317,316	4,400,872
Sheep & Lambs	8	46	31	58	39	35,592	29,872	71,234	61,728
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	886	913	870	886	871	1,255	1,261	1,258	1,265
Calves	496	473	510	491	509	326	316	324	317
Hogs	205	233	221	226	211	267	267	267	267
Sheep & Lambs	75	123	106	116	98	137	133	138	133
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red meat	1.3	1.5	1.4	3.0	2.7	3,502.1	3,496.5	7,583.1	7,572.0

Louisiana Grain Stocks

Corn stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2003, at 14.4 million bushels, were down 18 percent from last year's 17.7 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 March 1, 2003, at 7.58 million bushels, were up 47 percent from above last year's 5.17 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 March 1, 2003, at 5.28 million bushels, were up 1 percent from the 5.21 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 March 1, 2003, totaled 8.61 million cwt, down 13 percent from March 1, 2002. On-farm stocks of rice are estimated at 2.40 million cwt, down 29 percent from the previous year. The indicated December 2002- February 2003 disappearance from all positions totaled 8.12 million cwt.

Louisiana and U.S. Grain Stocks, March 1, 2002-2003

Item	Louisiana		United States	
	December 1		December 1	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Thousand Bushels-----		-----Thousand Bushels-----	
Corn				
On-Farm	1/	1/	3,355,000	2,940,000
Off-Farm ²	<u>17,659</u>	<u>14,430</u>	<u>2,440,263</u>	<u>2,192,318</u>
TOTAL	1/	1/	5,795,263	5,132,318
Sorghum				
On-Farm	1/	1/	38,100	27,500
Off-Farm ²	<u>1/</u>	<u>2,832</u>	<u>156,007</u>	<u>135,312</u>
TOTAL	1/	1/	194,107	162,812
Soybeans				
On-Farm	1/	1/	687,000	635,500
Off-Farm ²	<u>5,165</u>	<u>7,579</u>	<u>648,987</u>	<u>566,308</u>
TOTAL	1/	1/	1,335,987	1,201,808
All-Wheat				
On-Farm	1/	1/	338,500	233,200
Off-Farm ²	<u>5,210</u>	<u>5,267</u>	<u>871,268</u>	<u>671,667</u>
TOTAL	1/	1/	1,209,768	904,867

¹Not published. ²Includes 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				
March 1, 2002	3,400	1/	1/	1/	9,931
August 1, 2002	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
December 1, 2002	8,500	1,523	5,826	882	16,731
March 1, 2003	2,400	1/	1/	1/	8,608

¹Not published 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 Transit	Total all Positions
	(Domestic Units - 1,000 Cwt)				
	Rough Rice				
March 1, 2002	31,725	15,325	66,279	179	113,508
August 1, 2002	5,180	6,599	19,728	302	31,809
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
	Milled Rice				
March 1, 2002	----	3,689	155	969	4,813
August 1, 2002	----	3,581	88	1,261	4,930
December 1, 2002	----	4,814	117	2,550	7,481
March 1, 2003	----	4,494	110	2,023	6,627

¹Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Prices Received Index Unchanged

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the February index. Higher prices for tomatoes, onions, oranges, and chicken eggs offset lower prices for cattle, dairy, strawberries, and wheat. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on an average of the past 3 years, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings for strawberries, tomatoes, dairy, and asparagus offset decreases for cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 6.6 percent from March 2002. Lower prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and celery more than offset higher prices for soybeans, corn, onions, and broilers. The Food Commodities Index increased 1.0 percent above last month to 97, but is 11.0 percent below March last year.

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Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003 ¹	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	4.41	5.61	2/	4.38	5.55	5.58
Rice, per cwt	4.16	4.02	4.06	3.99	4.03	4.05
Upland Cotton, per pound	.264	.447	3/ .452	.284	.452	3/ .445
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	92.30	91.80	92.80
Beef Cattle, per cwt	52.60	48.30	47.80	70.60	74.00	72.20
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	79.30	75.40	73.00	74.10	78.10	76.20
Cows, per cwt	42.20	37.70	38.00	41.50	38.90	39.80
Calves, per cwt	96.40	89.60	88.00	105.00	97.30	96.40
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.320	.340	.340
Eggs All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.685	.640	.687
Milk All, per cwt ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.70	11.40	11.00

¹Mid-month

²Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual farms

³Based on sales during the first half of the month

⁴Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

N/A = Not Available



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