

**Highlights In This Report**

**October 2003 Crop Prospects**

**Louisiana Crop Prospects**

Yields for Louisiana's cotton, rice, soybean and hay crops are expected to set new state records.

**Cotton** production is forecast at 950,000 bales, up 19 percent from last month and up 29 percent from 2002. An estimated 520,000 acres are expected to be harvested, 25,000 more than last year. If realized, the 877 pounds per acre will be the highest yield on record.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 25.8 million cwt, unchanged from last month but down 12 percent from 2002. The state yield is expected to reach 5,800 pounds per acre, breaking the state record set last year. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 445,000 acres.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 24.8 million bushels, down 11 percent from last month, but up 18 percent from a year ago. Production is down from last month due to an adjustment of harvested acres, from 870,000 to 730,000. If realized, the 34 bushel per acre yield would exceed the record of 33 bushels set in 2001. **Sugarcane** production is estimated at 14.7 million net tons, unchanged from last month, but up 5 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 30 net tons per acre, up 1.7 net tons from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 490,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2002.

**Corn** production is forecast at 67.5 million bushels, virtually unchanged from last month but up 2 percent from a year ago. Corn harvested acreage was revised to 500,000 acres, up 20,000 from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre, at 135 bushels, is up 13 bushels from 2002.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 14.0 million bushels compared to 13.4 million bushels last year. Yield is

forecast at 85 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from last month and 4 bushels more than last year.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.2 million tons, up 3 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 400,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from 2002. Yield, at 2.9 tons, is up 0.4 ton from 2002. If realized, this would be the highest yield on record for the state.

**Pecan** production is forecast at 15.0 million pounds compared to 6.0 million pounds last year.

**United States Crop Prospects**

**Upland Cotton** harvested acreage, at 11.9 million acres, is down 1 percent from the previous month and 2 percent less than 2002. A significant number of cotton fields in the southern High Plains area of Texas were left unharvestable after one of the worst late season hail storms passed through that area. American-Pima harvested acreage, at 168,400 acres, is unchanged from last month but down 31 percent from a year ago.

Harvesting in the Delta region was limited to extreme southern areas at the beginning of the month. Ideal growing conditions benefitted the crop during the middle of the month. Defoliation began on early planted fields in Tennessee and Missouri, but later planted fields were slow to mature as cooler temperatures arrived. Toward the end of the month the harvest expanded throughout the region, but wet weather limited progress. Objective yield measurements show Mississippi's boll counts are higher than any of the previous 15 years. Louisiana's boll counts are the highest since 1992. The boll counts in Arkansas, however, are the lowest since 1999.

**Rice** production is forecast at 197 million cwt, down fractionally from September and down 6 percent from 2002. Harvested acres, at 2.98 million, are unchanged from September but down 7 percent from 2002. As of October 1, the U.S. all rice yield is forecast at a record high 6,624 pounds per acre. This forecast yield is down 31 pounds from September but up 46 pounds from the current record high yield set in 2002. Record high yields are forecast for Arkansas, Louisiana and Missouri.

As of September 28, the U.S. rice harvest was 69 percent

complete, 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was nearly complete in Louisiana and Texas. All Delta states were within 3 percentage points of their normal harvest progress. California rice harvest, at 25 percent complete, was 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average.

**Soybean** production is forecast at 2.47 billion bushels, down 7 percent from the September forecast and 10 percent below 2002. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 34.0 bushels per acre, down 2.4 bushels from September and down 4.0 bushels from 2002. With harvest underway, yields are lower than last month in the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains reflecting the impact of the hot, dry conditions in August and continued mostly dry weather during September. However, excellent growing conditions continue to support higher yields in the Delta states, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Based on Farm Service Agency administrative information, acreage updates were made in several states and now area planted is estimated at 73.6 million acres, down 68,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 72.5 million acres, down 88,000 acres from September but up fractionally from the 2002 acreage.

**Sugarcane** production is forecast at 36.1 million tons, virtually unchanged from the September forecast but 1 percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 997,000 acres for sugar and seed during the 2003 crop year, up fractionally from last month but 3 percent below last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 36.2 tons per acre, unchanged from the September forecast but 1.5 tons above 2002.

Sugarcane ripeners were applied on time in Louisiana and as of September 28, harvest was 5 percent complete. Weather conditions there have been favorable for growth and remain favorable for harvest. In Florida, dry weather during the first half of September, followed by mostly rainy conditions during the last half, aided growth and development of the crop. Growers there expect to begin harvesting around mid-October. The Texas Rio Grande Valley experienced some heavy and badly needed rain during September; however, yield prospects still declined from last month. Weather in Hawaii remained relatively dry.

**Corn** production is forecast at 10.2 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 13 percent above 2002.

Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 142.2 bushels per acre, up 3.7 bushels from September and up 12.2 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest ever. Both records were set in 1994 when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and the yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields turned out to be higher than expected across much of the Corn belt and central Great Plains as farmers began to harvest their crops. Producers are now realizing that the hot, dry conditions during August did not have as much negative impact on yields as originally thought. Based on Farm Service Agency administrative information, acreage updates were made in several states and farmers now expect to harvest 71.8 million acres of corn for grain, down 50,000 acres from September but up 4 percent from 2002.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 401 million bushels, down 2 percent from last month but up 8 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, the sorghum yield forecast is 51.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but up 0.3 bushel from 2002. Yield increases from last month are expected in 4 of the top 11 producing states; Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana and Nebraska. These increases are offset by declines in Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Area planted to sorghum for all purposes is estimated at 9.51 million acres, down 3 percent from August and 1 percent from 2002. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 7.85 million acres, down 2 percent from last month but 8 percent above last year.

**All Hay** production is forecast at 159.8 million tons, virtually the same as August but up 6 percent from 2002. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.50 tons, the same as the August forecast but 0.16 ton above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield. Harvested acreage is estimated at 63.9 million acres, down 1 percent from 2002.

**Pecans** October 1 forecast for 2003 pecan utilized production is 282 million pounds (in-shell basis), up 63 percent from last year's crop but 17 percent below the 2001 crop year. The 2003 season is the high year of the alternate bearing cycle; however, frequent rain and cool, cloudy conditions throughout the summer produced widespread disease problems, particularly in the Southeast states. Fungicide applicators were frequently interrupted by showers. Scab and insect pressure were the two most common problems reported. Improved varieties are expected to make up 210 million pounds or three quarters of the total, while the Native and seedling varieties, at 71.7 million pounds, make up the remaining crop.

**CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA**  
**October 1, 2003**

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003		2002	2003	
Corn for grain	560	<b>500</b>	122	<b>135</b>	bushels	68,320	<b>67,500</b>	+2
Upland Cotton	495	<b>520</b>	717	<b>877</b>	lbs: bales	739	<b>950</b>	+29
Rice	535	<b>445</b>	5,500	<b>5,800</b>	lbs: cwt	29,400	<b>25,810</b>	-12
Sorghum for grain	165	<b>165</b>	81	<b>85</b>	bushels	13,365	<b>14,025</b>	+5
Soybeans	660	<b>730</b>	32	<b>34</b>	bushels	21,120	<b>24,820</b>	+18
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	<b>490</b>	28.3	<b>30</b>	net tons	14,009	<b>14,700</b>	+5
Hay, all	450	<b>400</b>	2.5	<b>2.9</b>	tons	1,125	<b>1,160</b>	+3
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	6,000	<b>15,000</b>	+150

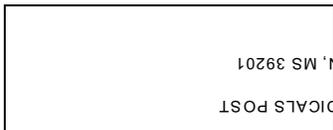
**CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES**  
**October 1, 2003**

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003		2002	2003	
Corn for grain	69,313	<b>71,765</b>	130.0	<b>142.2</b>	bushels	9,007,659	<b>10,207,418</b>	+13
Upland Cotton	12,184	<b>11,939</b>	651	<b>688</b>	lbs: bales	16,530.3	<b>17,118.0</b>	+4
Rice	3,207	<b>2,978</b>	6,578	<b>6,624</b>	lbs: cwt	210,960	<b>197,251</b>	-6
Sorghum for grain	7,299	<b>7,851</b>	50.7	<b>51.0</b>	bushels	369,758	<b>400,653</b>	+8
Soybeans	72,437	<b>72,538</b>	38.0	<b>34.0</b>	bushels	2,749,340	<b>2,468,390</b>	-10
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,023.2	<b>997.0</b>	34.7	<b>36.2</b>	net tons	35,553	<b>36,054</b>	+1
Hay, all	64,497	<b>63,903</b>	2.34	<b>2.50</b>	tons	150,734	<b>159,755</b>	+6
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	172,900	<b>281,900</b>	+63

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