

## PRESS RELEASE

On: March 1 Crop Report

For Information Contact:

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Terry Mathews

1-800-256-4485

## LOUISIANA SOYBEAN ACREAGE EXPECTED TO RISE BY 29 PERCENT

As of March 1, 2004, Louisiana's farmers intended to plant more acreage to cotton, rice, soybeans and sweet potatoes this year compared to last year. Corn, sorghum and wheat are expected to decrease from the previous year, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

These prospective planting intentions reflect the current economic and weather conditions as of March 1, 2004. 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 by NASS on June 30, 2004.

**Soybean** planted acreage is expected to increase 29 percent from last year, to 980,000 acres.

**Cotton** growers intend to plant 600,000 acres. This total is up 75,000 acres, or up 14 percent from a year ago.

**Rice** planted acreage is expected to increase to 530,000, up 16 percent from last year. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 510,000 acres. Growers intend to plant 20,000 acres of medium grain varieties, unchanged from 2003.

**Corn** planted acreage is expected to total 450,000 acres, down 13 percent from a year ago.

**Grain sorghum** intentions indicate acreage will total 100,000, down 70,000 acres from a year ago.

**Sweet potato** planted acreage, at 20,000, is up 5 percent from a year ago.

**Winter wheat** seeded last fall is estimated at 150,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2003.

**An estimated** 400,000 acres of hay will be harvested, up 5 percent from last year.

**An estimate of sugarcane** acreage for harvest will not be available until June 30, 2004.

### MARCH 1, 2004 - PLANTING INTENTIONS

CROP	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	2003	2004	% CHANGE	2003	2004	% CHANGE
	-----Thousand Acres-----			-----Thousand Acres-----		
<b>Corn</b>	520	<b>450</b>	-13	78,736	<b>79,004</b>	---
<b>Upland Cotton</b>	525	<b>600</b>	+14	13,304	<b>14,175</b>	+7
<b>Rice</b>	455	<b>530</b>	+16	3,022	<b>3,260</b>	+8
<b>Sorghum</b>	170	<b>100</b>	-41	9,420	<b>8,600</b>	-9
<b>Soybeans</b>	760	<b>980</b>	+29	73,404	<b>75,411</b>	+3
<b>Sweet Potatoes</b>	19	<b>20</b>	+5	95.6	<b>98.3</b>	+3
<b>All Wheat</b>	155	<b>150</b>	-3	61,700	<b>59,462</b>	-4
<b>Hay<sup>1</sup></b>	380	<b>400</b>	+5	63,342	<b>63,731</b>	+1

<sup>1</sup>Harvesting intentions.

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