

PRESS RELEASE

On: June 1 Crop Report

For Information Contact:

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LOUISIANA'S PLANTED ACREAGE DECREASES BY 4 PERCENT

Wet weather in early March followed by a period of six weeks in May and early June with almost no rain for many areas in the state forced a large number of producers to alter their planting intentions. As of June 1, Louisiana's planted acres decreased for all major crops from 2002 with the exception of cotton and soybeans, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

Sugarcane acreage for harvest is estimated at 490,000, down 5,000 acres from the previous year. Louisiana continues to lead the nation in harvested sugarcane acreage.

Cotton planted acreage is expected to increase to 550,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from last year and 20,000 acres above the March 1 estimate.

Rice planted acreage is expected to drop 70,000 acres to 470,000 acres, 13 percent fewer than last year. Of this total, long grain varieties will represent 460,000 acres or 98 percent, while medium grain varieties will represent the remaining 10,000 acres or 2 percent. This will be the fewest acres of rice planted in the state since 1987 when there were only 425,000 acres.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to total 900,000 acres, 110,000 more acres than last year and 50,000 acres above the March 1 intentions estimate. This will be the third consecutive year Louisiana's soybean planted acres have increased.

Corn planted acreage, at 500,000 acres, is down 20,000 acres from the March 1 intentions estimate and down 80,000 acres from 2002.

Sweet potato planted acreage, at 18,000 acres, is down 3,000 acres, 14 percent below a year ago. Louisiana's planted acres for sweet potatoes have not been this low since 1993 when there were only 17,000 acres.

Grain sorghum planted acreage, at 170,000 acres, is down 10,000 acres, 6 percent below last year.

An estimated 150,000 acres were planted to **winter wheat**, down 80,000 acres from 2002. As of June 29, 100 percent of the Louisiana winter wheat crop had been harvested.

All hay harvested is estimated at 400,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from 2002.

June 1, 2003 - Planted Acreage

Crop	Louisiana			United States		
	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change
	-----Thousand Acres-----			-----Thousand Acres-----		
Corn	580	500	-14	79,054	79,066	--
Upland Cotton	520	550	+6	13,714	13,748	--
Rice	540	470	-13	3,240	2,992	-8
Sorghum	180	170	-6	9,580	9,477	-1
Soybeans	790	900	+14	73,758	73,653	--
Sweet Potatoes	21	18	-14	97.2	94.0	-3
Winter Wheat	230	150	-35	41,735	44,349	+6
Hay ¹	450	400	-11	64,497	64,379	--
Sugarcane ^{1,2}	495	490	-1	1,023.2	995.0	-3

¹Harvested acres. ²For sugar and seed.

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