

2004 Louisiana Crop Acreage & Production - January

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For Information Contact:

Terry Mathews  
1-800-256-4485

## Louisiana Posts Record Yields For Five Crops

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. "This has really been an exceptional year for many farmers," according to Dave Frank, State Statistician. 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.

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**CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA**  
**January 1, 2004**

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES (000)		YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003		2002	2003	
Corn for grain	560	<b>500</b>	122	<b>134</b>	bushels	68,320	<b>67,000</b>	-2
Upland Cotton	495	<b>510</b>	717	<b>955</b>	lbs: bales	739	<b>1,015</b>	+37
Rice	535	<b>450</b>	5,500	<b>5,870</b>	lbs: cwt	29,400	<b>26,397</b>	-10
Sorghum for grain	165	<b>165</b>	81	<b>85</b>	bushels	13,365	<b>14,025</b>	+5
Soybeans	660	<b>740</b>	32	<b>34</b>	bushels	21,120	<b>25,160</b>	+19
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	<b>490</b>	28.3	<b>27</b>	net tons	14,009	<b>13,230</b>	-6
Sweet Potatoes	15	<b>18</b>	125	<b>175</b>	cwt	1,875	<b>3,150</b>	+68
Hay, all	450	<b>380</b>	2.5	<b>2.9</b>	tons	1,125	<b>1,102</b>	-2

**CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES**  
**January 1, 2004**

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES (000)		YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003		2002	2003	
Corn for grain	69,313	<b>71,139</b>	130.0	<b>142.2</b>	bushels	9,007,659	<b>10,113,887</b>	+12
Upland Cotton	12,184	<b>11,880</b>	651	<b>719</b>	lbs: bales	16,530.3	<b>17,795.0</b>	+8
Rice	3,207	<b>2,997</b>	6,578	<b>6,645</b>	lbs: cwt	210,960	<b>199,157</b>	-6
Sorghum for grain	7,299	<b>7,798</b>	50.7	<b>52.7</b>	bushels	369,758	<b>411,237</b>	+11
Soybeans	72,437	<b>72,321</b>	38.0	<b>33.4</b>	bushels	2,749,340	<b>2,417,565</b>	-12
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,023.2	<b>996.8</b>	34.7	<b>34.5</b>	net tons	35,553	<b>34,368</b>	-3
Sweet Potatoes	83.5	<b>92.4</b>	154	<b>172</b>	cwt	12,865	<b>15,921</b>	+24
Hay, all	64,497	<b>63,342</b>	2.34	<b>2.48</b>	tons	150,962	<b>157,123</b>	+4

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