

On: August 1 Crop Report

For Immediate Release: August 12, 2003

For Information Contact:

Terry Mathews
1-800-256-4485

Record Rice Yield Expected In Louisiana

“Louisiana’s rice crop is expected to yield 5,600 pounds per acre, surpassing the old state record of 5,500 pounds,” according to Dave Frank, State Statistician with the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Frank also indicated that the 2003 Louisiana hay yield is expected to be a new state record, at 2.9 tons per acre.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 26.0 million cwt, down 11 percent from 2002. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 465,000 acres, down 70,000 acres from the 2002 crop. If realized, the 5,600 pound yield would exceed the record 5,500 pound yields achieved in 2001 and 2002. U.S. production is forecast at 195 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year and down 9 percent from 2001.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 14.7 million net tons, up 5 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 30 net tons per acre, up 6 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 490,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2002. U.S. production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2003 is forecast at 34.5 million tons, 3 percent below last year.

Cotton production is expected to total 750,000 bales, up 1 percent from 2002. An estimated 540,000 acres are expected for harvest, 45,000 acres more than last year. Yield per acre, at 667 pounds, is 50 pounds less than in 2002. Upland cotton production for the U.S. is forecast at 16.5 million bales, 1 percent below 2002.

Soybean production is expected to total 27.8 million bushels, up 34 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 870,000 acres, up 34 percent from 2002. Yield is forecast at 32 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year. U.S. soybean production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 5 percent from 2002 but down 1 percent from 2001.

Corn production is forecast at 60.0 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. An estimated 480,000 acres will be harvested for grain, down 14 percent from 2002. Yield per acre, at 125 bushels, is up 3 bushels from 2002. U.S. corn production is forecast at 10.1 billion bushels, up 12 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2001.

Sorghum production is estimated at 13.5 million bushels compared to 13.4 million bushels last year. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 165,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Yield is forecast at 82 bushels per acre, 1 bushel more than last year. U.S. production for the 2003 crop is forecast at 448 million bushels, up 21 percent from 2002.

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 per acre, is up 0.4 ton from 2002. If realized this would be the highest yield on record for the state.

-30-

[Tables on back]

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA
August 1, 2003

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2002	2003	2002	2003		2002	2003
Corn for grain	560	480	122	125	bushels	68,320	60,000
Upland Cotton	495	540	717	667	lbs: bales	739	750
Rice	535	465	5,500	5,600	lbs: cwt	29,400	26,040
Sorghum for grain	165	165	81	82	bushels	13,365	13,530
Soybeans	650	870	32	32	bushels	20,800	27,840
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	490	28.3	30.0	net tons	14,009	14,700
Hay, all	450	400	2.5	2.9	tons	1,125	1,160

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES
August 1, 2003

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2002	2003	2002	2003		2002	2003
Corn for grain	69,313	71,915	130.0	139.9	bushels	9,007,659	10,064,452
Upland Cotton	12,184	12,124	651	659	lbs: bales	16,530.3	16,653.0
Rice	3,207	2,967	6,578	6,577	lbs: cwt	210,960	195,130
Sorghum for grain	7,299	8,241	50.7	54.4	bushels	369,758	448,438
Soybeans	72,160	72,626	37.8	39.4	bushels	2,729,709	2,862,039
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,023.2	995.0	34.7	34.7	net tons	35,553	34,484
Hay, all	64,497	64,379	2.34	2.49	tons	150,962	160,018