

PRESS RELEASE



On: August 1 Crop Report

For Immediate Release: August 12, 2004

For Information Contact:

Terry Mathews

1-800-256-4485

Production Expected to be Up, Yields Expected to be Down in 2004

As expected, Louisiana's major crop yields are down as a result of the excessive rainfall in the spring and early summer. Only the sugarcane yield is expected to be up, according to Dave Frank, Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. "However," Frank stated, "The rice and soybean crops are expected to be larger than in 2003 due to substantial acreage increases."

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 30.5 million cwt, up 16 percent from 2003. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 545,000 acres, up 95,000 acres from the 2003 crop. Yield per acre, at 5,600 pounds, is down 270 pounds from last year's record setting yield. U.S. production is forecast at 222 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 13.1 million net tons, up 2 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 27 net tons per acre, up 3 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 485,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2003. U.S. production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2004 is forecast at 32.4 million tons, 4 percent below last year.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 650,000 bales, down 37 percent from 2003. An estimated 490,000 acres are expected for harvest, 20,000 acres fewer than last year. This will be the fewest harvested cotton acres since 1983 when only 410,000 acres were harvested. Yield per acre, at 637 pounds, is 330 pounds less than 2003's record yield. Upland cotton production for the U.S. is forecast at 19.5 million bales, up 9 percent from 2003.

Soybean production is expected to total 28.5 million bushels in Louisiana, up 13 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 950,000 acres, up 28 percent from 2003. Yield is forecast at 30 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from last year's record yield. U.S. soybean production is forecast at 2.88 billion bushels, up 19 percent from 2003 and up 4 percent from 2002.

Louisiana's **corn** production is forecast at 55.6 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. An estimated 445,000 acres will be harvested for grain, down 11 percent from 2003. Yield per acre, at 125 bushels, is down 9 bushels from 2003. U.S. corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 8 percent from last year and 22 percent above 2002.

Sorghum production is estimated at 6.65 million bushels in the state, compared to 14.0 million bushels last year. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 95,000 acres, down 70,000 acres from last year and the lowest harvested acres for sorghum in seven years. Yield is forecast at 70 bushels per acre, down 15 bushels from last year. U.S. production for the 2004 crop is forecast at 465 million bushels, up 13 percent from 2003.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 828 million tons, down 25 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 360,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2003. Yield, at 2.3 tons per acre, is expected to be down 0.6 ton from the record yield in 2003.

-30-

[Tables on back]

U.S.D.A. - Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service
In cooperation with

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA
August 1, 2004

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004
Corn for grain	500	445	134	125	bushels	67,000	55,625
Upland Cotton	510	490	967	637	lbs: bales	1,027	650
Rice	450	545	5,870	5,600	lbs: cwt	26,397	30,520
Sorghum for grain	165	95	85	70	bushels	14,025	6,650
Soybeans	740	950	34	30	bushels	25,160	28,500
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	490	485	26.2	27.0	net tons	12,838	13,095
Hay, all	380	360	2.9	2.3	tons	1,102	828

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES
August 1, 2004

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004
Corn for grain	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	bushels	10,113,887	10,923,099
Upland Cotton	11,826	13,067	723	716	lbs: bales	17,822.9	19,480.0
Rice	2,997	3,318	6,645	6,680	lbs: cwt	199,157	221,646
Sorghum for grain	7,798	6,916	52.7	67.2	bushels	411,237	464,782
Soybeans	72,321	73,655	33.4	39.1	bushels	2,417,565	2,876,627
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	994.4	971.6	34.0	33.4	net tons	33,857	32,430
Hay, all	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.63	tons	157,114	161,977