

PRESS RELEASE

On: September 1 Crop Report

For Immediate Release: September 11, 2003

For Information Contact:

Terry Mathews
1-800-256-4485

Louisiana Rice Yield Exceeding Early Expectations

“Louisiana’s rice crop is expected to yield 5,800 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 cotton yield is expected to average 738 pounds per acre, the highest yield since 1994 when the state average was 815 pounds per acre.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 25.8 million cwt, down 1 percent from last month and down 12 percent from 2002. Although production is down from last month due to an adjustment of harvested acres, from 465,000 to 445,000, the expected yield is up to 5,800 cwt, breaking the state record set last year. U.S. production is forecast at 198 million cwt, up 2 percent from August but down 6 percent from last year. U.S. harvested acreage is expected to total 2.98 million acres, down 7 percent from last year.

Cotton production is forecast at 800,000 bales, up 7 percent from last month and 8 percent from 2002. Cotton harvested acreage was revised to 520,000 acres, down 20,000 from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre, at 738 pounds, is 21 pounds more than in 2002. If realized this would be the highest yield since 1994 when the state average was 815 pounds per acre. Upland cotton production for the U.S. is forecast at 16.5 million bales, virtually unchanged from 2002. U.S. growers expect to harvest 12.0 million acres, down 1 percent from 2002.

Sugarcane production is estimated at 14.7 million net tons, unchanged from last month, but up 5 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 30 net tons per acre, up 1.7 net tons from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 490,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2002. U.S. production is forecast at 36.1 million net tons from an estimated 996,000 harvested acres. U.S. production is expected to be up 1 percent from last year.

Soybean production is expected to total 27.8 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but up 34 percent from a year ago. Yield is forecast at 32 bushels per acre, tying last year’s state record yield. U.S. production is forecast at 2.64 billion bushels, down 3 percent from 2002. U.S. farmers expect to harvest 72.6 million acres, up 1 percent from last year.

Corn production is forecast at 67.2 million bushels, up 12 percent from last month but down 2 percent from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 140 bushels, is up 18 bushels from 2002. U.S. production is forecast at 9.94 billion bushels, up 10 percent from last year. U.S. farmers expect to harvest 71.8 million acres of corn for grain, up 4 percent from 2002.

Sorghum production is estimated at 13.5 million bushels compared to 13.4 million bushels last year. Yield is forecast at 82 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, but 1 bushel more than last year. U.S. production is forecast at 410 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year. U.S. acreage forecast to be harvested for grain, at 8.04 million acres, is up 10 percent from 2002.

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CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA

September 1, 2003

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003		2002	2003	
Corn for grain	560	480	122	140	bushels	68,320	67,200	-2
Upland Cotton	495	520	717	738	lbs: bales	739	800	+8
Rice	535	445	5,500	5,800	lbs: cwt	29,400	25,810	-12
Sorghum for grain	165	165	81	82	bushels	13,365	13,530	+1
Soybeans	650	870	32	32	bushels	20,800	27,840	+34
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	490	28.3	30	net tons	14,009	14,700	+5

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES

September 1, 2003

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003		2002	2003	
Corn for grain	69,313	71,815	130.0	138.5	bushels	9,007,659	9,944,418	+10
Upland Cotton	12,184	12,024	651	659	lbs: bales	16,530.3	16,508.0	---
Rice	3,207	2,978	6,578	6,655	lbs: cwt	210,960	198,174	-6
Sorghum for grain	7,299	8,041	50.7	51.0	bushels	369,758	410,145	+11
Soybeans	72,160	72,626	37.8	36.4	bushels	2,729,709	2,642,644	-3
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,023.2	996.0	34.7	36.2	net tons	35,553	36,064	+1