

# PRESS RELEASE

On: October 1 Crop Report

For Immediate Release: October 10, 2003

For Information Contact:

Terry Mathews  
1-800-256-4485

## “Louisiana Set to Break Several Crop Yield Records ”

“Yields for Louisiana’s cotton, rice, soybean and hay crops are expected to set new state records, ” according to Dave Frank, State Statistician with the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

**Cotton** production is forecast at 950,000 bales, up 19 percent from last month and up 29 percent from 2002. An estimated 520,000 acres are expected to be harvested, 25,000 more than last year. If realized, the 877 pounds per acre will be the highest yield on record. Upland cotton production for the U.S. is forecast at 17.1 million bales, up 4 percent from 2002. U.S. growers expect to harvest 11.9 million acres, down 2 percent from 2002.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 25.8 million cwt, unchanged from last month but down 12 percent from 2002. The state yield is expected to reach 5,800 pounds per acre, breaking the state record set last year. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 445,000 acres. U.S. production is forecast at 197 million cwt, down fractionally from September and down 6 percent from 2002. U.S. harvested acreage is expected to total 2.98 million acres, down 7 percent from last year.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 24.8 million bushels, down 11 percent from last month, but up 18 percent from a year ago. Production is down from last month due to an adjustment of harvested acres, from 870,000 to 730,000. If realized, the 34 bushel per acre yield would exceed the record of 33 bushels set in 2001. U.S. production is forecast at 2.47 billion bushels, down 10 percent from 2002. U.S. farmers expect to harvest 72.5 million acres, virtually unchanged from last year.

**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 997,000 harvested acres. U.S. production is expected to be up 1 percent from last year.

**Corn** production is forecast at 67.5 million bushels, virtually unchanged from last month but up 2 percent from a year ago. Corn harvested acreage was revised to 500,000 acres, up 20,000 from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre, at 135 bushels, is up 13 bushels from 2002. U.S. production is forecast at 10.2 billion bushels, up 13 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 14.0 million bushels compared to 13.4 million bushels last year. Yield is forecast at 85 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from last month and 4 bushels more than last year. U.S. production is forecast at 401 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year.

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

**Pecan** production is forecast at 15.0 million pounds compared to 6.0 million pounds last year.

-30-

[Tables on back]

**CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA**  
**October 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	<b>500</b>	122	<b>135</b>	bushels	68,320	<b>67,500</b>	+2
Upland Cotton	495	<b>520</b>	717	<b>877</b>	lbs: bales	739	<b>950</b>	+29
Rice	535	<b>445</b>	5,500	<b>5,800</b>	lbs: cwt	29,400	<b>25,810</b>	-12
Sorghum for grain	165	<b>165</b>	81	<b>85</b>	bushels	13,365	<b>14,025</b>	+5
Soybeans	660	<b>730</b>	32	<b>34</b>	bushels	21,120	<b>24,820</b>	+18
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	<b>490</b>	28.3	<b>30</b>	net tons	14,009	<b>14,700</b>	+5
Hay, all	450	<b>400</b>	2.5	<b>2.9</b>	tons	1,125	<b>1,160</b>	+3
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	6,000	<b>15,000</b>	+150

**CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES**  
**October 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	<b>71,765</b>	130.0	<b>142.2</b>	bushels	9,007,659	<b>10,207,418</b>	+13
Upland Cotton	12,184	<b>11,939</b>	651	<b>688</b>	lbs: bales	16,530.3	<b>17,118.0</b>	+4
Rice	3,207	<b>2,978</b>	6,578	<b>6,624</b>	lbs: cwt	210,960	<b>197,251</b>	-6
Sorghum for grain	7,299	<b>7,851</b>	50.7	<b>51.0</b>	bushels	369,758	<b>400,653</b>	+8
Soybeans	72,437	<b>72,538</b>	38.0	<b>34.0</b>	bushels	2,749,340	<b>2,468,390</b>	-10
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,023.2	<b>997.0</b>	34.7	<b>36.2</b>	net tons	35,553	<b>36,054</b>	+1
Hay, all	64,497	<b>63,903</b>	2.34	<b>2.50</b>	tons	150,734	<b>159,755</b>	+6
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	172,900	<b>281,900</b>	+63

For free automatic e-mail subscription to this report, go to the following website via Internet and follow the instructions:

[www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm)

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

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER