

Highlights In This Report

November 2003 Crop Prospects

Louisiana Crop Prospects

Yields for Louisiana's cotton, rice and soybean crops are expected to set new state records.

Cotton production is forecast at 970,000 bales, up two percent from last month and up 31 percent from 2002. An estimated 520,000 acres are expected to be harvested, 25,000 more than last year. If realized, the 895 pounds per acre will be the highest yield on record.

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 of 5,500 pounds per acre set last year. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 445,000 acres.

Soybean production is expected to total 24.8 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but up 18 percent from a year ago. An estimated 730,000 acres are expected to be harvested, 70,000 more than last year. If realized, the 34 bushels per acre will exceed the record of 33 bushels set in 2001.

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.

Corn production is forecast at 67.5 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but down one percent from a year ago. Acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 500,000 acres, down 11 percent from 2002. Yield per

acre, at 135 bushels, is up 13 bushels 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, unchanged from last month, but four bushels more than last year.

United States Crop Prospects

Upland Cotton harvested acreage, at 11.9 million acres, is unchanged from the October estimate, but two percent less than last year. Harvest progress continues to lag well behind the five-year average in most states. American-Pima harvested area, at 168,400 acres, is unchanged from October, but down 31 percent from 2002.

In the southeastern States, cool temperatures in early October slowed boll maturation and the effectiveness of defoliants. There were warm, sunny days later in October that aided maturity, but there were also intermittent showers throughout the month that interrupted harvest activity. Objective Yield data continues to show above average boll counts in Georgia. Average boll weight is the highest of the previous five years. North Carolina boll counts and weights are near average.

Cotton producers in the lower Delta region had mostly excellent harvesting weather throughout October. Heavy rains near the middle of the month halted the Louisiana harvest temporarily, but ideal conditions prevailed soon after. Interior Delta growers were concerned about the cooler temperatures early in the month. The cooler weather slowed the effect of the defoliation process. Bolls were slow to open and leaves were slow to drop. These concerns were virtually eliminated toward the end of the month as above normal temperatures prevailed, aiding the boll opening process significantly. Boll counts and average boll weights in Mississippi are the highest in the 15-year data series. Louisiana's boll counts and average boll weights are the highest since 1992 and 1996, respectively. Boll counts in Arkansas are slightly below the 15-year average and the lowest since 1999. However, Arkansas boll weights are the highest since 1994.

Rice production is forecast at 198 million cwt, up fractionally from October but down 6 percent from 2002. Harvested acres, at 2.98 million, are unchanged from October but down 7 percent from 2002. As of November 1, the U.S. all rice yield is forecast at a record high 6,656 pounds per acre. This forecast yield is up 32 pounds from October and up 78 pounds from the previous record high yield set in 2002. Record high yields are forecast for Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri. As of November 2, the U.S. rice harvest was complete or nearly complete in all estimating states.

Soybean growers expect to harvest 72.5 million acres of soybeans, unchanged from October, but up fractionally from 2002. The November Objective Yield pod counts are forecast down slightly from last month and 7 percent below last year. This is the lowest pod count since 1997 for the combined seven states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio). Pod counts are considerably below last year in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri, while counts are higher than 2002 in Nebraska and Ohio.

Freezing temperatures the first week of October in the northern Great Plains, Corn Belt and Ohio Valley ended plant growth and promoted maturation. As of November 2, 91 percent of the soybean acreage was harvested in the 18 major producing states. This compares with 87 percent last year and the five-year average of 91 percent. Harvest across most of the nation progressed rapidly, promoted by warm, dry weather. By the end of October, harvest neared completion in the western Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. Progress was nearly one week ahead of normal in Michigan and Wisconsin, but was over one week behind in Kansas and Missouri.

Sugarcane production is forecast at 36.1 million tons, unchanged from the October forecast, but one percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 997,000 acres for sugar and seed during the 2003 crop year, unchanged from last month, but three percent below last year's final harvested area. Yield is forecast at 36.2 tons per acre, unchanged from October, but 1.5 tons above 2002.

Dry weather conditions in Florida and Louisiana have been favorable for harvesting. The Louisiana harvest continues to advance smoothly while Florida growers

began harvesting around mid-October. Harvesting in Texas has been slowed by heavy rain and wet field conditions. Weather in Hawaii remained relatively dry, but has not yet had an influence on yields.

Corn production is forecast at 10.3 billion bushels, up one percent from last month and 14 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 143.2 bushels per acre, up one bushel from October and up 13.2 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. Both previous records were set in 1994. Of the major producing states, Illinois and Ohio are expecting record yields. Yields are also forecast at record highs in eight other states located mostly in the Southeast.

Area harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 71.8 million acres, unchanged from October, but up four percent from 2002. Corn Objective Yield data on November 1 indicates ear counts in the combined seven Objective Yield states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin) are at a record high, four percent above the previous high in 2000 and six percent above last year. Indicated ear counts are the highest on record in six of the seven Objective Yield states. Nebraska's ear count is the third highest on record, below only 1999 and 2000.

Sorghum production is forecast at 400 million bushels, virtually unchanged from the October forecast but up eight percent from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, the sorghum yield forecast is 51.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, but up 0.3 bushel from 2002. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 7.85 million acres, unchanged from last month but eight percent above last year.

As of November 2, harvest in the top 11 sorghum producing states was 72 percent complete, compared to 71 percent last year and the five-year average of 86 percent. The harvest was complete in Arkansas and Louisiana, but was behind in all of the remaining states, except Colorado and South Dakota. Farmers in Kansas, where harvest was 17 points behind the five-year average, were waiting for the grain to dry down. In Texas, harvest is complete in the southern and central areas, but continues to lag well behind normal in the Plains where late planting, and slow maturity may extend the harvest into December. Nationwide, the sorghum crop was 91 percent mature, trailing last year by three percentage points and the five-year average by seven points.

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA
November 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	500	122	135	bushels	68,320	67,500	-1
Upland Cotton	495	520	717	895	lbs : bales	739	970	+31
Rice	535	445	5,500	5,800	lbs : cwt	29,400	25,810	-12
Sorghum for grain	165	165	81	85	bushels	13,365	14,025	+5
Soybeans	660	730	32	34	bushels	21,120	24,820	+18
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	490	28.3	30	net tons	14,009	14,700	+5

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES
November 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	71,765	130.0	143.2	bushels	9,007,659	10,277,932	+14
Upland Cotton	12,184	11,939	651	715	lbs : bales	16,530.3	17,773.0	+8
Rice	3,207	2,978	6,578	6,656	lbs : cwt	210,960	198,211	-6
Sorghum for grain	7,299	7,851	50.7	51.0	bushels	369,758	400,012	+8
Soybeans	72,437	72,538	38.0	33.8	bushels	2,749,340	2,451,759	-11
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,023.2	997.0	34.7	36.2	net tons	35,553	36,054	+1

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