

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

November 2002 Crop Prospects

Louisiana Crop Prospects

One of the wettest months of October on record will likely have a major impact on the end of year production of cotton, soybeans, and sugarcane. Rice, sorghum, and corn were able to escape with minimal damage as their harvests were virtually complete when the wet weather set in.

Cotton production is expected to total 750,000 bales, down 4 percent from last month but 27 percent below last year. An estimated 500,000 acres are expected for harvest, 355,000 fewer than last year. Yield per acre, at 720 pounds, is down 29 pounds from last month but 140 pounds more than than in 2001.

Louisiana **sugarcane** production is estimated at 14.9 million net tons, unchanged from last month but up 3 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 30 net tons per acre, up 1 ton from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 495,000 acres. The timing of the first freeze will be critical to sugarcane producers still struggling to get their crop out of the field.

Louisiana **soybean** production is expected to total 25.1 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but up 25 percent from a year ago. Extremely good yields were reported by those who harvested their crop prior to the extended wet weather period. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 760,000 acres, up 25 percent from 2001. Yield is forecast at 33 bushels per acres, tying last year's record.

Louisiana's **rice** production is forecast at 29.4 million cwt, unchanged from last month but down 2 percent from 2001. Yield is expected to reach 5,500 cwt per acre, tying the state record set last year. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 535,000 acres. This is a decrease of 11,000 harvested acres from the 2001 crop.

Sorghum production is estimated at 14.8 million bushels,

down 3 percent from the previous month and down 17 percent from last year. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 195,000 acres, down 7 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 76 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last month and 9 bushels fewer than last year.

Louisiana **corn** production is forecast at 62.4 million bushels, unchanged from last month but up 37 percent from a year ago. Acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 480,000 acres, up 56 percent from 2001. Yield per acre at, 130 bushels, is down 18 bushels from 2001.

United States Crop Prospects

Cotton: Upland cotton harvested area, at 12.6 million acres, is unchanged from the October estimate but 7 percent less than last year. American-Pima harvested area, at 241,400 acres, is unchanged from October but down 10 percent from 2001 harvest area. Harvest progress is behind the 5-year average.

The upland cotton harvest lagged well behind the 5-year average in all of the Delta States by the end of October. Hurricane Lili hit the Gulf Coast on the 3rd of October, bringing additional rain and wind to many areas of the region following the heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Isidore the week before. Harvesting operations were slowed by muddy fields and additional showers throughout the month. Picking resumed in the interior Delta areas near the middle of October but was hampered by surplus moisture. As of November 3, harvest progress was 33 and 34 percentage points behind the 5-year average in Louisiana and Mississippi, respectively. Objective yield data show large boll counts in Arkansas higher than average with weights below average. Mississippi's large boll counts are surpassed only by the 1997 and 1998 counts. The average weight per boll of the 2002 crop is the highest of the previous 10 years. Louisiana's large boll counts are the highest since 1994 and weights are the highest since 1996.

Sugarcane: Production is forecast at 35.3 million tons, fractionally below the October forecast but 2 percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 1.02 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2002 crop year. This is unchanged from the previous month but 1 percent lower than last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 34.6 tons per acre, virtually unchanged from the October 1 forecast but 1.0 ton above last year's yield.

Wet weather frequently interrupted Louisiana's harvest during October, and on November 3 harvest was 31 percent complete compared with the 5-year average of 36 percent. Although Louisiana's harvest intentions have not been reduced by the wet weather, conditions during the remainder of the harvest season and the timing of the first hard freeze will be critical in determining final harvested area. Rain also frequently interrupted harvest in Texas, while harvest progressed with few rain delays in Florida and Hawaii.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.69 billion bushels, up 1 percent from October but 7 percent below 2001. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 37.5 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from last month. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1999. Area for harvest is forecast at 71.8 million acres, unchanged from October but 2 percent below last year. As harvest progressed, producers realized yield increases from last month in the northern Great Plains, Great Lakes, upper Mississippi Valley, and Tennessee Valley. However, in the Atlantic Coast States, yield prospects decreased from last month.

Rice: Production is forecast at 212 million cwt, up fractionally from October and down less than 1 percent from last year. Harvested acreage, at 3.21 million acres, is unchanged from October but down 3 percent from 2001. As of November 1, the U.S. all rice yield is forecast at a record high 6,611 pounds per acre. This is up 3 pounds from the October forecast and up 182 pounds from the previous record high yield in 2001. Record high yields are forecast for Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas.

Yield expectations increased in Mississippi from 6,400 pounds per acre to 6,600 pounds per acre as harvest progressed during October. Missouri yield expectations

declined 200 pounds per acre to 6,000 pounds per acre with producers reporting that late planted rice fields were not yielding as well as earlier planted fields.

As of November 3, the U.S. rice harvest was nearly complete in all states but Missouri, where 89 percent of the crop had been harvested.

Sorghum: Production is forecast at 381 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month and down 26 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production since 1956. Based on conditions as of November 1, the sorghum yield forecast is 50.7 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from October and down 9.2 bushels from last year. Kansas expects a yield of 46.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels below last month. The yield forecast for Texas is unchanged from last month. The U.S. area for harvest as grain is forecast at 7.53 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 12 percent from 2001.

As of November 3, harvest in the top 11 producing States was 70 percent complete, compared to 91 percent last year and the 5-year average of 87 percent. Harvest is behind schedule in 6 of the 11 producing states as a result of the low temperatures and wet conditions during October. Across most of the Great Plains, these adverse conditions hindered ripening of late-maturing fields, which were affected by drought conditions earlier in the growing season. Harvest progress in Kansas trailed last year by 36 percentage points and is also 31 percentage points behind the 5-year average. In Colorado, Oklahoma, and the middle Mississippi Valley, harvest was ahead of the 5-year average as of November 3.

Corn production is forecast at 9.00 billion bushels, up slightly from last month but down 5 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 127.6 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from October but down 10.6 bushels from last year. If realized, production would be at the lowest level since 1995. Yield prospects in Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska increased from last month despite heavy rainfall at the beginning of the month which slowed harvest progress. Ohio producers realized lower than expected yields from last month as harvest progressed on the late planted, drought stricken crop.

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA
November 1, 2002

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES (000)		YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2001
	2001	2002 ¹	2001	2002 ¹		2001	2002 ¹	
Corn for grain	307	480	148	130	bushels	45,436	62,400	+37
Upland Cotton	855	500	580	720	lbs: bales	1,034	750	-27
Rice	546	535	5,500	5,500	cwt	30,014	29,425	-2
Sorghum for grain	210	195	85	76	bushels	17,850	14,820	-17
Soybeans	610	760	33	33	bushels	20,130	25,080	+25
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	495	495	29	30	net tons	14,355	14,850	+3

¹Preliminary, November 1, 2002.

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES
November 1, 2002

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES (000)		YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	PRODUCTION (000)		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2001
	2001	2002 ¹	2001	2002 ¹		2001	2002 ¹	
Corn for grain	68,808	70,541	138.2	127.6	bushels	9,506,840	9,003,364	-5
Upland Cotton	13,559.5	12,620.0	694	653	lbs: bales	19,602.4	17,180.0	-12
Rice	3,314	3,207	6,429	6,611	cwt	213,045	212,013	--
Sorghum for grain	8,584	7,528	59.9	50.5	bushels	514,524	381,499	-26
Soybeans	72,975	71,799	39.6	37.5	bushels	2,890,682	2,689,691	-7
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,028.0	1,022.6	33.6	34.6	net tons	34,587	35,341	+2

¹Preliminary, November 1 2002.