

PRESS RELEASE



On: November 1 Crop Report

For Immediate Release: November 12, 2002

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Extremely Wet Conditions Hinder Cotton and Soybean Harvest

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, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician with the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. 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 and 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 in 2001. Upland cotton production for the U.S. is forecast at 17.2 million bales, 12 percent below 2001. U.S. growers expect to harvest 12.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 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. U.S. production is forecast at 35.3 million tons from an estimated 1.02 million harvested acres. U.S. production is expected to be up 2 percent from last year.

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 acre, tying last year's record. U.S. production is forecast at 2.69 billion bushels, down 7 percent from 2001.

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. U.S. production is forecast at 212 million cwt, virtually unchanged from 2001. U.S. harvested acreage is expected to total 3.21 million acres, down 3 percent from last year.

Sorghum production in Louisiana 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. U.S. production is forecast at 381 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month and down 26 percent from 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. U.S. production is forecast at 9.00 billion bushels, down 5 percent from last year.

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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.

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