



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



FIELD CROPS

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2007

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FLORIDA

WEATHER: Significant rains fell over the Panhandle and some northern Peninsula areas at the beginning of March. Dry and mostly cool conditions, during the rest of the month, accelerated land preparations for field crop planting but limited hay growth. Sugarcane harvesting slowed seasonally with most harvesting finished by mid-month. Almost two-thirds of corn was planted in Jackson County by mid-month and early plantings began to germinate by the end. Producers expected cotton planting to start by early April and peanut planting by early May.

In early March, Florida farmers indicated that they intended to plant more corn, soybeans, wheat and hay, but less cotton, and peanuts in 2007 than in 2006. Growers planned to plant 75,000 acres of corn, up 15,000 acres or 25 percent from the 60,000 acres planted last year. Soybean producers expected to plant 16,000 acres, over double the 7,000 acres planted last year. Wheat growers indicated that 13,000 acres were in the ground, up 5,000 acres from last year. Producers intended to bale 310,000 acres of hay, an increase of 50,000 acres from the previous year. The acreage planted to cotton is expected to total 90,000 acres, down 13,000 acres or 13 percent from a year ago. Peanut growers intended to plant 120,000 acres, 8 percent less than the 2006 acreage.

UNITED STATES

CORN: Growers intend to plant 90.5 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2007, up 15 percent from 2006 and 11 percent higher than 2005. If realized this would be the highest acreage since 1944, when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up in nearly all States as high corn prices are encouraging farmers to plant more acres to corn. The increase in intended corn acres is partially offset by lower expected acres of soybeans in the Corn Belt and Great Plains and fewer expected acres of cotton and rice in the Delta and Southeast. Illinois farmers intend to plant a record high 12.9 million acres of corn this spring, up 1.60 million acres from last year. North Dakota and Minnesota growers also expect to plant record high corn acres, up 910,000 and 600,000 acres, respectively.

SOYBEAN: Producers intend to plant 67.1 million acres in 2007, down 11 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest planted area since 1996. Acreage decreases are expected in all growing areas, except in New York and the Southeast. Large decreases in soybean acreage are expected across the Corn Belt, with the largest decline expected in Illinois, down 1.40 million acres from 2006. However, area planted to soybeans is expected to increase in the Southeast, with Georgia expecting the largest increase from last year at 95,000 acres. Planted acreage in New York is expected to be the largest on record at 210,000 acres.

ALL COTTON: Plantings for 2007 are expected to total 12.1 million acres, 20 percent below last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 11.9 million, down 21 percent from last year and the lowest since 1989. Growers intend to decrease planted area in all States with the largest acreage declines in Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Texas. American-Pima cotton growers intend to decrease their plantings by 10 percent from 2006, to 292,000 acres. California producers expect to plant 250,000 acres, down 9 percent from last year's record high.

PEANUTS: Producers intend to plant 1.20 million acres of peanuts in 2007, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, planted acreage would be the lowest since 1915. Southeast growers (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) intend to plant 857,000 acres, down 10 percent from last year. The most significant acreage decline in this region is expected in Georgia, down 14 percent from last year, where producers intend to plant more corn and soybeans. In the Virginia-North Carolina region, producers intend to plant 118,000 acres, up 16 percent from 2006. Growers in the Southwest (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) intend to plant 222,000 acres, up 17 percent from last year.

HAY: Producers expect to harvest 63.1 million acres of all hay in 2007, up 4 percent from 2006. Harvested acres are expected to increase from last year throughout the Great Plains and Southeast. Due to last year's drought reduced production and low hay supplies, harvested area is expected to increase by more than 100,000 acres throughout the Great Plains and in Alabama, Missouri, and Minnesota. The State with the largest expected increase is South Dakota, up 700,000 acres from 2006. However, acres for harvest in the Pacific Coast, Tennessee Valley, the Northeast and much of the Corn Belt are expected to decline or remain unchanged from 2006. The State with the largest expected decrease in harvested area is Iowa, with a decline of 100,000 acres from the previous year. In the west, California expects harvested area to be down 50,000 acres.

ALL WHEAT: Planted area is estimated at 60.3 million acres, up 5 percent from 2006. The 2007 winter wheat planted area, at 44.5 million acres, is 10 percent above last year and up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.66 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.92 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2007 is expected to total 13.8 million acres, down 7 percent from 2006. Of this total, about 13.3 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2007 is 1.99 million acres, up 6 percent from the previous year.

Prospective plantings for 2007 with comparisons

| Crops | Florida | | | | United States | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | Indicated 2007 ^{1/} | 2007 as % of 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | Indicated 2007 ^{1/} | 2007 as % of 2006 |
| | 1,000 acres | | Percent | | 1,000 acres | | Percent | |
| CORN ^{2/} | 65 | 60 | 75 | 125 | 81,779 | 78,327 | 90,454 | 115 |
| COTTON, UPLAND ^{2/} | 86 | 103 | 90 | 87 | 13,975 | 14,948 | 11,855 | 79 |
| ALL HAY, HARVESTED | 290 | 260 | 310 | 119 | 61,729 | 60,807 | 63,056 | 104 |
| PEANUTS ^{2/} | 160 | 130 | 120 | 92 | 1,657 | 1,243 | 1,197 | 96 |
| SOYBEANS ^{2/} | 9 | 7 | 16 | 229 | 72,032 | 75,522 | 67,140 | 89 |
| TOBACCO, HARVESTED | | | | | | | | |
| All types | -- | -- | -- | -- | 297.1 | 339.0 | 344.2 | 102 |
| Class 1, Flue-cured | 2.5 | 1.1 | ^{3/} | -- | 174.5 | 213.1 | 212.0 | 99 |
| WINTER WHEAT ^{2/} | 18 | 8 | 13 | 163 | 40,433 | 40,575 | 44,505 | 110 |

^{1/} Intended plantings in 2007 as indicated by reports from farmers.

^{2/} Planted for all purposes.

^{3/} Estimates discontinued in 2007