



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



FIELD CROPS

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2008

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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April 1, 2008

FLORIDA

WEATHER: Both topsoil and subsoil moisture in the Panhandle was mostly adequate to surplus in the beginning of March. In the Panhandle area, fields were very wet and little farming activity was underway. In Gadsden County, hay was reported in very short supply. Some growers in Jefferson County decided not to plant cotton or corn due to the high cost of fuel and fertilizer. In Santa Rosa County, recent wet weather had negatively impacted the winter wheat crop, especially some that was planted late. Some growers were considering planting soybeans after wheat, but there was a shortage of seed reported. By the end of March, dry and clear conditions allowed land preparations for field crop planting to continue in the Panhandle. In Washington County, growers prepared land to plant peanuts and cotton.

In early March, Florida farmers indicated that they intended to plant more soybeans and wheat, but less corn, hay, cotton, and peanuts in 2008 than in 2007. Growers planned to plant 21,000 acres of soybeans, up 7,000 acres from the 14,000 acres planted last year. Winter wheat producers expected to plant 25,000 acres, almost double the 13,000 acres planted last year. Producers intended to bale 250,000 acres of hay, a decrease of 50,000 acres from the previous year. The acreage planted to cotton is expected to total 72,000 acres, down 13,000 acres or 15 percent from a year ago. Peanut growers intended to plant 120,000 acres, 8 percent less than the 2007 acreage.

UNITED STATES

CORN: Growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

SOYBEAN: Growers intend to plant an estimated 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from the acreage planted in 2007. Last year, many soybean growers switched from soybeans to corn as ethanol expansion strongly increased the demand for corn. In contrast, many growers intend to plant more soybeans this year due to high prices and strong demand for soybeans. Compared with last year, acreage increases are expected in all States, except in West Virginia, which is unchanged from last year. The largest increases are expected in Iowa and Nebraska, up 1.25 million acres and 1.20 million acres from 2007, respectively. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Minnesota, and South Dakota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record. Growers in the 11 major soybean producing States (Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota) intend to plant 60.0 million acres, up 16 percent from last year.

ALL COTTON: Plantings for 2008 are expected to total 9.39 million acres, 13 percent below last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 9.19 million, down 13 percent from last year, the lowest since 1983. Growers intend to decrease planted area in all States except Georgia and Oklahoma. The largest acreage declines are in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. American-Pima cotton growers intend to decrease their plantings by 30 percent from 2007, to 203,600 acres. California producers expect to plant 180,000 acres, down 31 percent from last year.

PEANUTS: Growers intend to plant 1.43 million acres of peanuts in 2008, up 16 percent from 2007. A higher price received for the 2007 crop, compared to the previous 5 years, is the main reason for the expected increase in planted acreage. Southeast growers (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) intend to plant 1.04 million acres in 2008, compared with the 898,000 acres planted in 2007. Georgia, the largest peanut producing State, expects to see an increase of 23 percent in planted acreage from the previous year. Growers in the Southwest (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) intend to plant 279,000 acres, up 28 percent from the previous year. Plantings in the Virginia-North Carolina region are expected to total 108,000 acres, down 5 percent from 2007.

HAY: Producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of all hay in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the Great Plains, Southeast, and Southwest. The State with the largest expected decrease is Texas, down 390,000 acres from 2007. South Dakota and Nebraska are expected to be down 300,000 acres and 150,000 acres, respectively. However, area for harvest in most States in the northern Great Plains, Western Mountain regions, and Northeast is expected to increase from 2007. The States with the largest expected increases from the previous year are North Dakota, up 120,000 acres, and Montana, Wyoming, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, each up 50,000 acres. In the West, minor increases are expected in Oregon, Nevada, and California.

ALL WHEAT: Planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.63 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2008 is expected to total 14.3 million acres, up 8 percent from 2007. Of this total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2008 is 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from the previous year.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2008 WITH COMPARISONS

Crops	Florida				United States			
	2006	2007	Indicated 2008 ^{1/}	2008 as % of 2007	2006	2007	Indicated 2008 ^{1/}	2008 as % of 2007
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Corn ^{2/}	60	75	70	93	78,327	93,600	86,014	92
Cotton, Upland ^{2/}	103	85	72	85	15,274.0	10,830.3	9,389.6	87
All Hay, Harvested	260	300	250	83	60,927	61,625	60,583	98
Peanuts ^{2/}	130	130	120	92	1,243	1,230	1,430	116
Soybeans ^{2/}	7	14	21	150	75,522	63,631	74,793	118
TOBACCO, HARVESTED								
All types	--	--	--	--	339,000	356,000	350,920	99
Class 1, Flue-	1,100	^{3/}	^{3/}	^{3/}	213,100	223,000	221,000	99
Winter Wheat ^{2/}	8	13	25	192	40,575	44,987	46,840	104

^{1/} Intended plantings or harvested acres in 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.

^{2/} Planted for all purposes.

^{3/} Estimates discontinued in 2007.