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# FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURE

August 13, 2004

## FLORIDA

**FLORIDA:** Frequent but scattered rains during July kept soil moisture supplies adequate to surplus in most areas while still allowing farmers to harvest tobacco and cut hay.

Temperatures were about normal for the month, with daytime highs in the low 90s and nighttime lows in the high 60s and low 70s.

Early in the month, rains prevented timely applications of pesticides in some peanut fields, although peanut condition remained good to excellent throughout the month. The percent of peanuts pegging reached 93 percent by July 26, compared to 89 percent last year and the 5-year average of 86 percent.

Tobacco harvesting began in early July and was active throughout the month. Tobacco contract collection centers opened in early August.

**COTTON:** Production is expected to total 128,000 bales, 9 percent higher than the 117,000 bales harvested last year. Yield per acre is set at 597 pounds, down 13 pounds from the 610 pounds per acre for the 2003 crop. Acreage to be picked is estimated at 103,000 acres, up 11,000 acres or 12 percent from a year ago.

**PEANUTS:** Harvested acreage is forecast at 120,000 acres, up 5,000 acres or 4 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 3,100 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds or 3 percent from the 2003 crop yield. Production is set at 372,000,000 pounds, up 8 percent from the 345,000,000 pounds produced last year.

**SUGARCANE:** Production for seed and sugar is set at 15,540,000 tons, down 1,691,000 tons or 10 percent from the previous season. Yield is expected to average 37.0 tons per acre versus the 2002-03 crop yield of 39.3 tons. Producers expect to harvest 420,000 acres for the 2003-04 season, compared to 438,000 acres harvested during the 2002-03 season.

**TOBACCO:** Growers expect to produce 10,600,000 pounds, down 400,000 pounds from 2003. Acreage is set at 4,000 acres, down 400 acres from the 4,400 acres harvested in 2003. Yield is expected to average 2,650 pounds per acre, up 150 pounds from the 2,500 pounds per acre last year.

## UNITED STATES

**COTTON:** Upland cotton production is forecast at 19.5 million 480-pound bales, 9 percent above 2003. Harvested area, at 13.1 million acres, is 1.24 million acres more than a year ago. Cotton farmers in the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) rated the condition of the cotton as mostly fair to good. Development has been ahead of average, especially in North Carolina and Virginia. Ideal weather conditions allowed growers to plant earlier than normal.

**PEANUTS:** Production is forecast at 4.32 billion pounds, up 4 percent from last year's crop and up 30 percent from 2002. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.35 million acres, unchanged from June but up 3 percent from 2003. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,198 pounds per acre, 39 pounds per acre above last year. Planted acres, at 1.39 million, are unchanged from the June estimate but 3 percent above 2003. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.92 billion pounds, up 5 percent from last year's level. Yields in the 4-State area are expected to average 3,183 pounds per acres, 55 pounds below 2003. Expected area for harvest, at 918,000 acres, is unchanged from June but up 7 percent from the previous year. Planted acres, at 940,000, are also unchanged from June but up 7 percent from 2003. As of August 1, peanuts pegging in Alabama, at 96 percent, exceeded the 5-year average by 12 percentage points. Georgia peanuts pegging, at 99 percent, exceeded the 5-year average by 4 percentage points.

**SUGARCANE:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2004 is forecast at 32.4 million tons, 4 percent below last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 971,600 acres for sugar and seed during the 2004 crop year, 2 percent less than last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 33.4 tons per acre, 0.6 ton below the yield for 2003. Louisiana's August 1 crop condition was rated 76 percent good to excellent.

**TOBACCO:** Flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 517 million pounds, virtually unchanged from the previous forecast but 13 percent higher than the 2003 crop. Growers plan to harvest 231,000 acres in 2004, down 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,238 pounds per acre, down 6 pounds from the July 1 forecast but 281 pounds higher than the previous year. Good weather in most of the flue-cured producing areas has caused an increase in yield potential compared to last year. Most growers rate their crop good to excellent.

**CORN:** Production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 8 percent from last year and 22 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 148.9 bushels per acre, up 6.7 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are higher in most of the Corn Belt and Great Plains States as weather conditions have been favorable during much of the growing season. Farmers expect to harvest 73.4 million acres of corn for grain, virtually unchanged from June but up 3 percent from 2003.

**SOYBEANS:** Soybean production is forecast at 2.88 billion bushels, up 19 percent from 2003 and 4 percent from 2002. If realized, this would be the second largest U.S. soybean production on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.1 bushels per acre, up 5.7 bushels from 2003. Yields are higher than 2003 throughout the Grain Plains and across the Corn Belt, but lower than the record high yields of 2003 in the Southeast. Area for harvest, at 73.7 million acres, is unchanged from June but up 2 percent from 2003 acreage.

**CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida  
and United States as of August 1, 2004 with comparisons**

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2003	For harvest 2004	2003	Indicated 2004		2003	Indicated 2004
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Units</i>			<i>Thousands</i>	
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Cotton	92	103	610	597	<sup>1/</sup>	117	128
Peanuts	115	120	3,000	3,100	Lbs.	345,000	372,000
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>2/</sup>	5.8	5.5	240	250	Cwt	1,392	1,375
Spring <sup>2/</sup>	28.6	22.5	280	249	Cwt	8,008	5,605
Sugarcane	438	420	39.3	37.0	Ton	17,231	15,540
Tobacco, Type 14	4.4	4.0	2,500	2,650	Lbs.	11,000	10,600
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Corn for grain	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	Bu.	10,113,887	10,923,099
Cotton, all <sup>4/</sup>	12,003.4	13,317.0	730	727	<sup>1/</sup>	18,255.2	20,183.0
Hay, Alfalfa	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	Ton	76,307	77,264
Hay, All Other	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	Ton	80,816	84,499
Peanuts for nuts	1,312	1,351	3,159	3,198	Lbs.	4,144,150	4,320,200
Potatoes:							
Winter <sup>2/</sup>	14.3	14.0	282	250	Cwt	4,027	3,500
Spring <sup>2/</sup>	84.7	71.7	288	266	Cwt	24,433	19,077
Summer <sup>2/</sup>	59.0	57.1	322	327	Cwt	19,008	18,656
Fall <sup>2/</sup>	1,092.0	1,022.8	377	<sup>5/</sup>	Cwt	411,386	<sup>5/</sup>
Rice	2,997	3,318	6,645	6,680	<sup>3/</sup>	199,157	221,646
Sorghum for grain	7,798	6,916	52.7	67.2	Bu.	411,237	464,782
Soybeans for beans	72,321	73,655	33.4	39.1	Bu.	2,417,565	2,876,627
Sugarbeets	1,347.9	1,326.3	22.7	21.4	Ton	30,583	28,378
Sugarcane for sugar and seed	994.4	971.6	34.0	33.4	Ton	33,857	32,430
Tobacco, All	411.2	413.6	1,952	2,140	Lbs.	802,654	884,873
Tobacco, Types 11 - 14	233.4	231.0	1,957	2,238	Lbs.	456,690	517,000
Tobacco, Type 14	31.4	28.0	2,242	2,093	Lbs.	70,400	58,600
Wheat, all	52,839	50,556	44.2	42.0	Bu.	2,336,526	2,122,894
Winter	36,541	34,825	46.7	42.8	Bu.	1,707,069	1,489,408
Durum	2,869	2,521	33.7	35.3	Bu.	96,637	88,951
Other spring	13,429	13,210	39.7	41.2	Bu.	532,820	544,535

<sup>1/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

<sup>2/</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

<sup>3/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.

<sup>4/</sup> Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

<sup>5/</sup> First forecast in November.