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**GENERAL:** Three tropical systems swept across Florida's agricultural areas in September and October. Hurricane Katrina brought strong winds and abundant rains to the extreme western Panhandle causing damage to cotton, corn and peanuts at the end of August. Katrina's rains leached fertilizer from cotton fields and washed away pesticides which resulted in an increase in insect populations. In Jefferson County, the storm caused pecan trees to drop some nuts but most trees escaped significant damage. Growers in areas that experienced wet conditions for most of the summer suffered significant losses of hay production. Wet conditions increased the incidence of disease in many peanut fields due to pesticides washing away. Rains and gusty winds from Tropical Storm Ophelia slowed fieldwork along the eastern coastline. Drier conditions allowed haymaking to resume and permitted fieldwork to advance in most areas. Some growers in the Panhandle delayed digging peanuts due to hard soils. Insects were pressuring soybean fields in Washington County. Hurricane Rita's outer rain bands brought heavy rains to the extreme southern Peninsula and to the extreme western Panhandle which provided relief in some dry areas but slowed field activities in other areas. Adequate rains allowed growers to plow peanuts in the Panhandle. Tomato spotted wilt virus infestations lowered the yield prospects in many peanut fields. Rainfall throughout the month of September around Lake Okeechobee and Immokalee boosted sugarcane growth and development.

Storms from the remnants of Hurricane Rita slowed some field activities as the storm crossed the western Panhandle leading into early October. In Washington County, severe infestations of tomato spotted wilt virus significantly reduced peanut yield. In some Jefferson County orchards with good scab control, pecan trees had a higher than average crop. Outer rain bands from Hurricane Rita left some cotton on the ground. Scattered rains from Tropical Storm Tammy slowed field activities in some areas as the storm moved northward along the eastern coastline. Sugarcane harvesting was advancing with mills starting to open by the second week of October.

**PEANUTS:** As of October 1, 2005, yield is expected to average 2,900 pounds per acre, equal to the September forecast and 100 pounds higher than last year. If this yield is realized, production would total a record-high 420,500,000 pounds, up 16 percent from last year. Planted acreage is set at 160,000 acres and acreage to be harvested is 145,000 acres, unchanged from the September figures.

**COTTON:** Production is set at 110,000 bales, up 13,000 bales from the September forecast and 1,000 bales from 2004. This year's harvested acreage is expected to total 85,000 acres, down 2,000 acres or 2 percent from last year. As of October 1, yield is expected to average 621 pounds per acre, up 20 pounds or 3 percent from a year ago. Picking started in early October.

**SUGARCANE:** Harvested acreage is set at 435,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from the September forecast and 29,000 acres above last year. Net yield per acre is expected to average 38.0 tons per acre, up 1 ton from the September forecast and 8 percent above the 35.2 tons per acre averaged last year. Production is expected to be 16,530,000 tons, up 990,000 tons from September and up 11 percent from last year.

**TOBACCO:** Harvested acreage is set at 2,800 acres, down from the 1,200 acres pulled in 2004. Yield is 2,400 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds from a year ago. Production is set at 6,720,000 pounds, down 31 percent from the 9,800,000 pounds produced last year.

**PECANS:** Expected production for all varieties is set at 1,400,000, up 900,000 pounds from last year. Production of improved varieties is estimated at 500,000 which increased by 100,000 pounds from 2004. Production of native and seedling varieties is forecast at 900,000 pounds compared to only 100,000 pounds produced a year ago.

**WINTER POTATOES:** Production totaled 1,392,000 cwt. which was down 11 percent from last year. Yield averaged 240 cwt. per acre, down from last year's average of 285 cwt. per acre. Acreage harvested totaled 5,800 acres, up 5 percent from last year's 5,500 acres harvested. Mostly mild, dry weather during the last weeks of 2004 provided good conditions for planting and crop development. Most acreage escaped damage from the cold, wet weather in late December. Digging around Lake Okeechobee, Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin got underway by early February.

#### UNITED STATES

**PEANUTS:** Production is forecast at 4.92 billion pounds, up 15 percent from last year's crop but down 2 percent from last month. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.61 million acres, unchanged from September but up 15 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3,061 pounds per acre, down 56 pounds from September and down 15 pounds from 2004. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 3.48 billion pounds, down 2 percent from September but up 22 percent from last year's level. Expected acreage for harvest, at 1.18 million, is unchanged from September but up 21 percent from last year. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 2,960 pounds per acre, 69 pounds below last month but 27 pounds above 2004.

**COTTON:** Upland cotton area for harvest, at 13.4 million acres, is unchanged from last month's forecast but is up 5 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested acres are unchanged from last month but are up 7 percent from 2004. In the Delta region, defoliation of the crop was underway throughout the region. Warmer weather during the early and middle parts of September allowed for the crop to recover from the rain received from Hurricane Katrina and for limited harvesting to begin. Faced with the threat of Hurricane Rita, Louisiana growers made rapid harvest progress during the middle of the month with over 50 percent of the crop harvested



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by the end of September. The end of month found harvesting slowing down across most of the Delta due to the heavy rain received from Hurricane Rita. Farmers in Mississippi are concerned about the damage the crop received from the rainfall and the tornadoes. In Mississippi, objective yield measurements show below average bolls per acre but the highest boll weight in the last 10 years. Defoliation of the crop was widespread throughout the Southeast.

**SUGARCANE:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2005 is forecast at 30.2 million tons, slightly above the September forecast and 4 percent above 2004. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 957,900 acres for sugar and seed during the 2005 crop year, up 2 percent from September and last year. Yield is forecast at 31.6 tons per acre, 0.4 ton below the previous forecast but 0.7 ton above the 2004 yield. In Louisiana, where Hurricane Rita caused extensive wind and flood damage in the southwestern sugarcane-growing areas, the production forecast is down 910,000 tons from September, due to the yield forecast being reduced 2.0 tons.

**TOBACCO:** Flue-cured production is expected to total 384 million pounds, down 1 percent from the September forecast and 26 percent below 2004. Growers plan to harvest 178,800 acres in 2005, unchanged from the September forecast but down 22 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 2,150 pounds per acre, 26 pounds less than last month and 122 pounds below a year ago. North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia growers reported decreases in Flue-cured yields from last month. Persistent dry conditions in South Carolina and Virginia have lead to a decline in leaf weight.

**PECANS:** The October 1 forecast for 2005 pecan utilized production is 289 million pounds (in-shell basis), up 55 percent from last year's crop and 2 percent above 2003. Improved varieties are expected to produce 232 million pounds or 80 percent of the total, while the Native and seedling varieties, at 57.0 million pounds, make up the remaining 20 percent. The 2005 crop is expected to be larger than last year's, in most producing States, mainly because it is an up year in the alternate bearing pattern typical of pecans. Louisiana and Mississippi are exceptions to the high cycle due to extensive hurricane damage to trees.

**WINTER POTATOES:** Production for 2005 is revised to 4.89 million cwt, down 3 percent from the April forecast but 2 percent above 2004. Harvested area of 19,800 acres in the 2 winter potato States (California and Florida) is unchanged from the April 1 forecast but 7 percent more than last year. The average yield of 247 cwt per acre is down 9 cwt from the April forecast and 13 cwt below 2004.

**CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of October 1, 2005 with comparisons**

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2004	For harvest 2005	2004	Indicated 2005		2004	Indicated 2005
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Units</i>			<i>Thousands</i>	
<b>FLORIDA</b>							
Cotton, Upland	87.0	85.0	601	621		109.0	110.0
Peanuts <sup>2/</sup>	130.0	145.0	2,800	2,900	Lbs.	364,000	420,500
Pecans, All					Lbs.	500	1,400
Improved Varieties					Lbs.	400	500
Native and Seedling					Lbs.	100	900
POTATOES:							
Winter <sup>3/</sup>	5.5	5.8	285	240	Cwt.	1,568	1,392
Spring <sup>3/</sup>	24.5	23.2	313	282	Cwt.	7,678	6,550
Sugarcane	406.0	435.0	35.2	38.0	Ton	14,281	16,530
Tobacco, Type 14 <sup>4/</sup>	4.0	2.8	2,450	2,400	Lbs.	9,800	6,720
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Corn for Grain	73,632	74,333	160.4	146.1	Bu.	11,807,217	10,857,440
Cotton, All <sup>5/</sup>	13,057.0	13,673.0	855	797		23,250.7	22,717.0
Hay, Alfalfa	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.43	Ton	75,383	75,940
Hay, All Other	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.94	Ton	82,391	76,931
Peanuts for Nuts <sup>2/</sup>	1,394.0	1,607.0	3,076	3,061	Lbs.	4,288,200	4,919,300
Pecans, All					Lbs.	185,800	288,700
Improved Varieties					Lbs.	138,970	231,700
Native and Seedling					Lbs.	46,830	57,000
POTATOES:							
Winter <sup>3/</sup>	18.5	19.8	260	247	Cwt.	4,818	4,892
Spring <sup>3/</sup>	72.2	64.4	341	281	Cwt.	22,663	18,099
Summer <sup>3/</sup>	53.9	48.3	340	334	Cwt.	18,307	16,123
Fall <sup>3/</sup>	1,022.3	955.7	401	6/	Cwt.	410,253	6/
Rice <sup>7/</sup>	3,325	3,343	6,942	6,678		230,818	223,238
Sorghum for Grain	6,517	5,687	69.8	66.0	Bu.	454,899	375,105
Soybeans for Beans	73,958	71,270	42.2	41.6	Bu.	3,123,686	2,967,075
Sugarbeets	1,306.9	1,243.3	22.9	21.5	Ton	29,956	26,746
Sugarcane for							
Sugar and Seed	938.2	957.9	30.9	31.6	Ton	29,013	30,241
Tobacco, All	408,040	307,010	2,155	2,083	Lbs.	879,227	639,566
Tobacco, Types 11 - 14	228,400	8/	2,272	8/	Lbs.	518,835	8/
Tobacco, Type 14	27,000	18,800	2,092	1,804	Lbs.	56,490	33,920
Wheat, All <sup>3/</sup>	49,999.0	49,980.0	43.2	42.0	Bu.	2,158,245	2,098,270
Winter <sup>3/</sup>	34,462.0	33,680.0	43.5	44.4	Bu.	1,499,434	1,493,769
Durum <sup>3/</sup>	2,363.0	2,691.0	38.0	37.2	Bu.	89,893	100,045
Other Spring <sup>3/</sup>	13,174.0	13,609.0	43.2	37.1	Bu.	568,918	504,456

<sup>1/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales. <sup>2/</sup> Updated from "Crop Production 2004 Summary" released January 12, 2005. <sup>3/</sup> Latest estimates either from current or previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2005 crop year. 2005 Revised. <sup>4/</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. <sup>5/</sup> Includes Upland and Amer-Pima cotton. <sup>6/</sup> First forecast in November. <sup>7/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. Includes sweet rice production. The 2005 rice production by class estimates are based on class harvested acreage estimates and the 5-year average class yield compared to the all rice yield. <sup>8/</sup> Estimates for 2005 tobacco, Types 11-14 can be found on the internet.