



FIELD CROPS

CROP PRODUCTION

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Florida

Weather: Harvesting was getting underway for many growers in early September as temperatures were in the 90s and rainfall came mostly in the evenings. Peanut growers were able to dig their early-planted crop and harvesting of corn for grain was nearing completion. Sugarcane was reported in good condition. Mid-month rain caused delays in spraying and other field work. Cotton bolls continued to open, but picking had not started by September's end. As of October 1, peanut condition was rated 27 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 37 percent excellent. Peanut digging was 27 percent complete compared to 28 percent last year.

Cotton: Based on conditions existing on October 1, yield is forecast at 830 pounds per acre, unchanged from last month's forecast, but down from last year's 916. Growers expect to harvest 81,000 acres, up from last year's 65,000 acres. Production is expected to total 140,000, 480 pound bales, up 16,000 bales from last year. Near the start of September, early-planted cotton began opening.

Peanuts: As of October 1, yield is expected to average 3,100 pounds per acre, down 3 percent from last year. Growers expect to harvest 105,000 acres, which is unchanged from last month's estimate and down 35,000 acres from last year. Production is forecast at 325.5 million pounds, down 27 percent from last year. Harvesting of early-planted peanuts continued in September. Rain caused occasional delays. Cooler temperatures slowed the maturation process. In mid to late September, dry conditions aided harvesting.

Pecans: Production of the bearing crop is anticipated at 2.1 million pounds, up from the 2008 production of 1.7 million pounds. Eighty six percent of the crop or 1.8 million pounds will come from improved varieties.

Sugarcane: All acreage for harvest is set at 390,000 acres, unchanged from the September estimate, but down 11,000 acres or 3 percent from the previous season's acreage of 401,000 acres. Yield is expected to average 36.7 net tons per acre, unchanged from the September estimate, but up 3.6 tons or 11 percent from last year. Production calculated to 14.3 million net tons, up 1.06 million tons from a year ago. Some fields were replanted due to unusual freezes earlier this year. Favorable growing conditions continue to boost expected yields from the previous year.

United States

Cotton: Upland cotton production is forecast at 12.6 million 480-pound bales, down 3 percent from last month but up 2 percent from last year. Upland cotton harvested, at 7.59 million acres, is virtually unchanged from last month but up 3 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested area, at 146,200, was carried forward from the August forecast. During the early part of September, producers in the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) battled periods of heavy rain showers delaying fieldwork and crop progress. Late in September, cool and clear conditions allowed the fields to dry out, but producers worried about receiving the necessary heat units for the late-developing crop. By the end of the month, harvest was underway in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, but had not started in Georgia and Alabama, well behind the 5-year average. On October 4, the crop was rated in mostly fair to good condition. Objective yield measurements in Georgia showed boll counts to be the second largest in the last 10 years. In North Carolina, boll counts are the third largest in the last 10 years.

Peanuts: Production is forecast at 3.64 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the September 1 forecast and down 30 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.08 million acres, unchanged from September but down 28 percent from 2008. Yields are expected to average 3,363 pounds per acre, down 34 pounds from last month and down 63 pounds from the 2008 record yield of 3,426 pounds per acre. However, this would be the second highest U.S. yield on record if realized. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.79 billion pounds, down less than 1 percent from September and down 27 percent from last year. Expected area for harvest, at 825,000 acres, is unchanged from September but down 25 percent from 2008. Yields in the region are expected to average 3,384 pounds per acre, down 17 pounds from last month and 48 pounds below last year. Yields are forecast lower than last year in all Southeast States except for Georgia. Virginia-North Carolina production is forecast at 272 million pounds, up 2 percent from the September 1 forecast but down 38 percent from 2008. Expected area for harvest, at 78,000 acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 36 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 3,485 pounds per acre, up 85 pounds from the September forecast but 146 pounds less than the 2008 average. Harvest was underway in both States as of October 4.

Pecans: Production is forecast at 309 million pounds (utilized, in-shell basis), up 59 percent from last year's crop but 20 percent below the 2007 production year. All States in the pecan estimating program have a higher production forecast than last year, with the exception of Kansas. Nationally, improved varieties are forecasted to produce 264 million pounds or 85 percent of the total, while native and seedling varieties, at 45.5 million pounds, make up the remaining 15 percent of production. The 2009 crop is expected to be larger than last year's mainly due to the alternate bearing pattern typical of pecans. In Georgia, production is forecast at 90.0 million pounds, 29 percent above last year. This is the "up" year in the alternate bearing cycle, but frequent rain throughout the summer produced widespread disease problems. Fungicide applications were frequently interrupted by showers and cool, cloudy conditions. The Alabama crop is expected to total 13.0 million pounds, up 63 percent from the final 2008 production estimate. Managed orchards throughout the State were

reported to have a very heavy nut set. In Louisiana, the crop is forecast at 8.00 million pounds, up 60 percent from 2008 but down 43 percent from 2007. Typically, after hurricane damage, native and seedling varieties take several years to return to previous yields, this is the case after the hurricanes of 2008.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed is forecast at 28.5 million tons, up 2 percent from the September 1 forecast and up 3 percent from 2008. Producers intend to harvest 852,700 acres for sugar and seed during the 2009 crop season, unchanged from last month but 15,300 acres below last year. Expected yield is forecast at 33.4 tons per acre, up 0.6 ton from the previous forecast and up 1.6 tons from 2008. Changes in production are a result of yield increases in Louisiana and Texas where timely rainfall has led to late-season crop growth and improved conditions.

Crop Production: Acreage for Harvest and Forecasts of Yield and Production for Florida and United States as of October 1, 2009 with Comparisons

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2008 crop year.]

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2008	For harvest 2009	2008	Indicated 2009		2008	Indicated 2009
	(thousands)	(thousands)				(thousands)	(thousands)
FLORIDA							
Cotton	65	81	916	830	(1)	124	140
Peanuts ²	140	105	3,200	3,100	pounds	448,000	325,500
Pecans, All.....					pounds	1,700	2,100
Improved Varieties.....					pounds	1,400	1,800
Native and Seedling					pounds	300	300
Potatoes:							
Spring	27.9	28.6	285	274	cwt	7,952	7,846
Sugarcane	401	390	33.1	36.7	ton	13,255	14,313
UNITED STATES							
Corn for Grain	78,640	79,294	153.9	164.2	bushels	12,101,238	13,018,058
Cotton, All	7,568.7	7,732.2	813	807	(1)	12,815.3	12,998.0
Hay, Alfalfa	20,980	20,982	3.32	3.43	ton	69,620	71,977
Hay, All Other	39,082	39,195	1.95	2.06	ton	76,052	80,752
Peanuts for Nuts ²	1,507	1,082	3,426	3,363	pounds	5,162,400	3,638,400
Pecans, Al					pounds	193,890	309,200
Improved Varieties.....					pounds	166,660	263,750
Native and Seedling					pounds	27,230	45,450
Potatoes:							
Winter	11.0	8.7	230	245	cwt	2,530	2,132
Spring	68.8	73.4	293	291	cwt	20,132	21,325
Summer	45.1	42.5	306	346	cwt	13,805	14,705
Fall.....	922.0	922.7	411		cwt	378,588	
Rice ³	2,976	3,101	6,846	7,115	(3)	203,733	220,647
Sorghum for Grain	7,271	5,681	65.0	64.0	bushels	472,342	363,723
Soybeans for Beans.....	74,681	76,619	39.7	42.4	bushels	2,967,007	3,250,113
Sugarbeets	1,004.6	1,158.5	26.7	26.8	ton	26,837	30,993
Sugarcane for							
Sugar and Seed.....	868.0	852.7	31.8	33.4	ton	27,603	28,504
Tobacco, All.....	354.5	353.3	2,258	2,304	pounds	800,504	813,964
Wheat, All:	55,699	50,058	44.9	44.4	bushels	2,499,164	2,220,156
Winter.....	39,608	34,485	47.1	44.2	bushels	1,867,333	1,522,718
Durum	2,574	2,518	32.6	43.7	bushels	83,827	110,077
Other Spring.....	13,517	13,055	40.5	45.0	bushels	548,004	587,361

¹ Production ginned and to be ginned. Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

² 2008 revised.

³ Yield in pounds, production in cwt. Includes sweet rice production.