



Louisiana Farm Reporter
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Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Louisiana Field Office · 5825 Florida Blvd · Baton Rouge, LA 70806

(225) 922-1362 · (225)922-0744 FAX <http://www.nass.usda.gov/la>

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Catfish: Number of Operations, Water Surface and Total Sales
Pecan: Production, Price and Value of Production
Louisiana: Season Average Price and Value of Production
United States: Season Average Price and Value of Production
Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, United States

Louisiana Catfish Growers Survey

Louisiana's commercial catfish growers had sales of 9.9 million dollars during 2007, down 21 percent from the previous year. Water surface acres totaled 5,500, of which 4,800 were being used for foodsize fish and 630 for fingerlings.

United States Catfish Growers Survey

Catfish growers in the U.S. had sales of 445 million dollars during 2007, down 8 percent from 484 million dollars the previous year. The top four states (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana) accounted for 94 percent of the U.S. total sales. The U.S. sales total for all foodsize fish decreased by 10 percent from 2006, to 409 million dollars, in 2007.

Fingerling and fry sales totaled 20 million dollars, a decrease of 6 percent from 2006. Sales of stockers totaled 15 million dollars in 2007 compared to 6.9 million dollars in 2006.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94.4 percent of total foodsize fish sales compared with 95.7 percent from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 95.5 percent of stocker sales compared with 85.0 percent in 2006.

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2008, totaled 155 thousand acres, down 6 percent from the 164 thousand acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 3.6 thousand are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2008. An additional 500 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2008. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2007, the area taken out of production totaled 8.2 thousand acres. As of January 1, 2008, foodfish were produced on 125 thousand acres; fingerling producing acres totaled 21 thousand, and 3.5 thousand acres were being used for broodfish production.

Catfish: Number of Operations, Water Surface and Total Sales

Selected States	Operations		Water Surface		Total Sales – All Sizes	
	January 1 2007	January 1 2008	January 1 2007	January 1 2008	During 2006 ¹	During 2007
	-----Number-----		-----Acres-----		-----1,000 dollars-----	
Alabama	199	185	23,700	22,000	98,969	94,492
Arkansas	137	128	30,400	29,900	79,586	71,544
California	37	38	1,500	1,500	7,318	8,335
Louisiana	20	17	6,300	5,500	12,625	9,918
Mississippi	370	350	94,000	87,300	262,510	240,666
North Carolina	44	38	2,000	2,000	7,213	6,980
Texas	57	61	1,700	2,900	5,910	9,209
Other States	376	247	4,076	3,532	9,711	3,806
United States	1,240	1,064	163,676	154,632	483,842	444,650

¹ Revised

Pecan: Production, Price and Value of Production

State	All Pecan Production			Utilized Production for 2007 Crops		2007	2007
	Final 2005	Final 2006	Ind 2007	Improved	Native & Seedling	Average Price per Pound, all Pecans	Value of Production
	-----1,000 Pounds-----			-----1,000 Pounds-----		-----Dollars-----	-1,000 Dollars-
Alabama	4,000	6,000	15,000	13,000	2,000	0.885	12,820
Arizona	22,000	14,000	23,000	23,000	---	1.500	34,500
Arkansas	2,300	2,200	2,300	1,200	1,100	0.932	2,144
California	3,950	3,400	3,850	3,850	---	1.810	6,969
Florida	1,000	500	1,000	900	100	0.970	970
Georgia	80,000	42,000	125,000	110,000	15,000	1.030	128,500
Kansas	3,200	2,000	500	---	500	0.900	450
Louisiana	5,000	21,000	12,000	3,000	9,000	0.863	10,350
Mississippi	1,000	2,500	3,000	2,400	600	1.180	3,540
Missouri	2,600	1,100	5	2	3	1.000	5
New Mexico	65,000	46,000	71,000	71,000	---	1.250	88,750
North Carolina	2,000	500	500	400	100	1.360	680
Oklahoma	21,000	17,000	20,000	6,000	14,000	1.200	24,000
South Carolina	2,200	1,100	2,000	1,500	500	1.340	2,685
Texas	65,000	47,000	70,000	44,000	26,000	0.853	59,700
United States	280,250	206,300	349,155	280,252	68,903	1.080	376,063

U.S. Pecan Production

The February end-of-season estimate for the 2007 U.S. pecan crop is 349.2 million pounds, up 69 percent from the 2006 crop. Improved varieties are expected to account for 280 million pounds of the total while native and seedling varieties account for the difference. The 2007 average U.S. all pecan price is \$1.08 per pound (in-shell basis), down from 2006's average of \$1.55. Total value of utilized production is 376 million dollars, up 17 percent from last season. Louisiana pecan production is estimated at 12.0 million pounds, compared to 21.0 million pounds produced in 2006.

Louisiana: Season Average Price and Value of Production¹

Crop	Unit	Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		2006	2007	2006	2007
		-----Dollars-----		-----1,000 Dollars-----	
Corn, Grain	bushel	2.80	3.80	113,680	457,710
Cotton Lint, All	pound	.461	2/ .519	274,608	2/ 171,893
Cottonseed	ton	97.00	155.00	38,800	35,185
Hay, All (baled)	ton	63.00	79.00	61,425	94,800
Rice, All	cwt	9.83	11.10	197,514	257,764
Sorghum, Grain	cwt	4.90	6.50	22,918	86,505
Soybeans	bushel	5.94	8.85	174,636	219,303
Sugarcane, All	ton	29.60	3/	351,529	3/
Sweet Potatoes	cwt	17.30	20.30	38,544	59,378
Wheat, Winter	bushel	3.60	5.20	20,034	61,776
TOTAL FIELD & MISC. CROPS				1,293,688	1,817,274
TOTAL FRUITS & NUTS				21,602	11,490
TOTAL COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES				---	---
TOTAL VALUE PRINCIPAL CROPS				1,315,290	1,828,764

United States: Season Average Price and Value of Production¹

Crop	Unit	Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		2006	2007	2006	2007
		-----Dollars-----		-----1,000 Dollars-----	
Corn, Grain	bushel	3.04	4.00	32,094,586	52,090,108
Cotton Lint, All	pound	.484	.569	5,013,238	5,196,688
Cottonseed	ton	111.00	160.00	814,151	1,060,760
Hay, All (baled)	ton	110.00	133.00	13,791,407	16,960,936
Rice, All	cwt	9.96	11.50	1,982,696	2,273,955
Sorghum, Grain	cwt	5.88	6.95	885,394	1,950,936
Soybeans	bushel	6.43	10.40	20,415,948	26,752,197
Sugarcane, All	ton	30.40	3/	897,435	3/
Sweet Potatoes	cwt	18.20	20.30	295,313	373,723
Wheat, All	bushel	4.26	6.65	7,710,014	13,669,482
Wheat, Winter	bushel	4.17	6.65	5,383,086	9,484,995

¹ 2007 crops are preliminary. Marketing year average prices do not include allowances or adjustments for commodities under government loan at the end of the marketing year, commodities forfeited to the CCC, crop deficiency payments or disaster payments. U.S. monthly prices, for all crops in the monthly price estimating program, are computed by weighting monthly state prices by monthly marketing for each state.

² Based on marketings and monthly prices received from August 1, 2007– December 31, 2007.

³ Available July 31, 2008, in the "Agricultural Prices" report.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, United States, January 1, 2006-2008¹

Class	2006	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007
	-----1,000 Head-----	----1,000 Head----	----1,000 Head---	Percent
All Sheep and Lambs	6,230	6,165	6,055	98
Market	1,590	1,555	1,550	100
Breeding Sheep and Lambs	4,640	4,610	4,505	98
Replacement Lambs				
Under One Year Old	783	719	695	97
Ewes – One Year Old and Older	3,661	3,696	3,617	98
Rams – One Year Old	196	195	193	99
Lamb Crop	4,065	4,050	----	----

¹ May not add due to rounding

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2008, totaled 6.06 million head, down 2 percent from 2007. After consecutive increases in 2005 and 2006, inventory has now declined for the past two years.

Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.51 million head on January 1, 2008, down 2 percent from 4.61 million head on January 1, 2007. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.62 million head, were 2 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2008, totaled 1.56 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2007. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 26 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings.

The 2007 lamb crop of 4.05 million head, was down slightly from 2006. The 2007 lambing rate was 110 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2007, down 1 percent from 2006.

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 5825 Florida Blvd., PO Box 65038
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