



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Prospective Plantings for 2007
Grain & Rice Stocks: March 1, 2007
February Livestock Slaughter
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Prospective Plantings For 2007

Planting intentions from our March 1 survey show Louisiana's corn and sorghum acreages may be at least double their 2006 levels. As the demand for ethanol increases and with the high prices producers are expected to receive for these two crops, the increase in acreage is not a surprise.

The prospective planting intentions reflect the current economic and weather conditions as of March 1. Actual acreage planted may increase or decrease based on what happens during the rest of the planting season. A June 1 survey will be conducted, and planted acreage updates will be released from that survey on June 29, 2007.

Corn planted acreage is expected to total 700,000 acres, up 400,000 acres, or 133 percent from a year ago. This would be the highest planted acreage since 1998, when the state also planted 700,000 acres.

Grain sorghum intentions indicate acreage will total 180,000, up 90,000 acres, or 100 percent, from 2006.

Cotton growers intend to plant 380,000 acres, down 255,000 acres, or 40 percent, from a year ago. This is the lowest planted acreage for the state since 1975, when the state planted 320,000 acres.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to decrease 28 percent from last year, to 630,000 acres. If realized, this will be the lowest planted acreage since 1964, when 508,000 acres were planted.

Rice planted acreage is expected to increase to 360,000 acres, 3 percent above last year. This will be the second lowest planted acreage on record. The lowest planted acreage was set last year when the state planted 350,000 acres. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 350,000 acres. Producers intend to plant 10,000 acres of medium grain varieties, the same as in 2006.

Sweet potato planted acreage, at 16,000 acres, is expected to drop 11 percent from a year ago.

Winter wheat acreage seeded last fall is estimated at 220,000 acres, up 91 percent from seedings for the 2006 crop.

An estimated 440,000 acres of **hay** will be harvested, up 13 percent from last year.

The first 2007 estimate of **sugarcane** acreage for harvest will be available on June 29, 2007.

United States Prospective Plantings

Corn growers intend to plant 90.5 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2007, up 15 percent from 2006 and 11 percent higher than 2005. If realized this would be the highest acreage since 1944, when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up in nearly all States as high corn prices are encouraging farmers to plant more acres to corn.

Sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes is 7.11 million acres, up 9 percent from 2006. Sorghum acres are expected to increase in States located in the lower Mississippi Valley, including Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

All cotton plantings for 2007 are expected to total 12.1 million acres, 20 percent below last year. **Upland acreage** is expected to total 11.9 million, down 21 percent from last year and the lowest since 1989. Growers intend to decrease planted area in all States with the largest acreage declines in Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Mississippi and Texas. **American-Pima** cotton growers intend to decrease their plantings by 10 percent from 2006, to 292,000 acres.

Soybean producers intend to plant 67.1 million acres in 2007, down 11 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest planted area since 1996. Acreage decreases are expected in all growing areas, except in New York and the Southeast.

Rice planted area is estimated at 2.64 million acres, down 7 percent from 2006 and down 22 percent from 2005. If realized, this will be the lowest planted acreage since 1987. Expected long grain planted acreage, representing 76 percent of the total, is down 8 percent from last year. Intended medium grain planted acreage, representing 21 percent of the total, decreased 3 percent from 2006. Area expected to be planted to short grain varieties is up 8 percent and represents 3 percent of the total.

Sweet Potatoes growers intend to plant 92,900 acres of sweet potatoes in 2007, down 3 percent from last year but 2 percent above 2005. This intended decline in planted acreage is being influenced by dry conditions in several States.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 60.3 million acres, up 5 percent from 2006. The 2007 winter wheat planted area, at 44.5 million acres, is 10 percent above last year and up 1 percent from the previous estimate.

Hay producers expect to harvest 63.1 million acres of all hay in 2007, up 4 percent from 2006. Harvested acres are expected to increase from last year throughout the Great Plains and Southeast. Due to last year's drought reduced production and low hay supplies, harvested area is expected to increase by more than 100,000 acres throughout the Great Plains and in Alabama, Missouri and Minnesota.

Prospective Plantings: Louisiana and United States, March 1, 2007, with 2006 Comparisons

Crop	Louisiana			United States		
	2006	2007	% Change	2006	2007	% Change
	----- Thousand Acres -----			----- Thousand Acres -----		
Corn	300	700	+133	78,327	90,454	+15
Upland Cotton	635	380	-40	14,948	11,855	-21
Rice	350	360	+3	2,838	2,644	-7
Sorghum	90	180	+100	6,522	7,109	+9
Soybeans	870	630	-28	75,522	67,140	-11
Sweet potatoes	18	16	-11	95.6	92.9	-3
All Wheat	115	220	+91	57,344	60,303	+5
Hay ¹	390	440	+13	60,807	63,056	+4

¹ Harvesting intentions.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	January	February		January – February		February		January – February	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	----- Number, thousand head -----					----- Number, thousand head -----			
Cattle	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.4	1.5	2,346.6	2,561.7	4,989.2	5,360.2
Calves	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	52.7	66.9	108.2	141.2
Hogs	1.4	1.7	1.5	3.0	2.9	8,055.6	8,117.0	16,971.8	17,482.4
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	202.2	204.4	427.4	421.1
	----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----					----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----			
Cattle	653	708	626	1,173	1,279	3,000,905	3,250,650	6,382,406	6,846,812
Calves	140	140	180	302	320	18,693	20,401	38,218	44,259
Hogs	271	358	318	638	589	2,183,590	2,183,691	4,610,515	4,718,816
Sheep & Lambs	9	28	35	35	44	29,162	28,631	61,363	58,828
	----- Average live weight, pounds -----					----- Average live weight, pounds -----			
Cattle	845	863	939	838	853	1,284	1,274	1,284	1,282
Calves	518	510	525	503	533	357	307	356	316
Hogs	187	208	209	213	203	271	269	272	270
Sheep & Lambs	67	122	101	117	110	144	140	144	140
	----- Million pounds -----					----- Million pounds -----			
Red Meat	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.4	1.4	3,489.9	3,615.6	7,388.4	7,707.9

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during February totaled 0.7 million pounds, unchanged from January but 12 percent below the previous year.

There were 700 head of **cattle** slaughtered during February, down 100 head from January and 100 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 939 pounds, up 94 pounds from the previous month and 76 pounds above February 2006. Total live weight, at 626,000 pounds, was 4 percent below the previous month and 12 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during February totaled 300 head, unchanged from January and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 525 pounds, up 7 pounds from January and 15 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 180,000 pounds, was up 29 percent from January and the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during February totaled 1,500 head, up 100 head from the previous month but 200 head below February 2006. Average live weight was 209 pounds, up 22 pounds from January and 1 pound above the previous year. Total live weight was 318,000 pounds, 17 percent above January but 11 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during February was 300 head, up 200 head from January and 100 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 101 pounds, up 34 pounds from the previous month but 21 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in February, up 4 percent from the 3.49 billion pounds produced in February 2006.

February 2007 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2006 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.95 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, up 9 percent from February 2006. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,274 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.2 million pounds, 7 percent above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,900 head, up 27 percent from February 2006. The average live weight was down 50 pounds from last year, at 307 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.64 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.12 million head, down slightly February 2006. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 204,400 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 4 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2007 commercial red meat production was 7.7 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year; veal was up 14 percent; pork was up 2 percent from last year; and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

Louisiana Grain Stocks

Corn stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2007, at 15.6 million bushels, were down 34 percent from last year's 23.7 million bushels.

Sorghum stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2007, at 1.98 million bushels, were up 13 percent from last year's 1.74 million bushels.

Soybean stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2007, at 5.13 million bushels, were down 20 percent from last year's 6.45 million bushels.

All wheat stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2007, at 8.11 million bushels, were up 21 percent from the 6.72 million bushels stored a year ago.

Louisiana Rice Stocks

Rough rice stocks reported in all positions on March 1, 2007, totaled 8.72 million cwt, down 11 percent from the 9.80 million cwt stored a year ago.

Louisiana and U.S. Grain Stocks, March 1, 2006 - 2007

Item	Louisiana ¹		United States	
	March 1		March 1	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----Thousand Bushels-----		-----Thousand Bushels-----	
Corn				
On-Farm			4,055,000	3,330,000
Off-Farm ²	<u>23,715</u>	<u>15,596</u>	<u>2,932,328</u>	<u>2,739,692</u>
Total			6,987,328	6,069,692
Sorghum				
On-Farm			26,200	17,100
Off-Farm ²	<u>1,740</u>	<u>1,970</u>	<u>166,936</u>	<u>125,094</u>
Total			193,136	142,194
Soybeans				
On-Farm			872,000	910,000
Off-Farm ²	<u>6,446</u>	<u>5,132</u>	<u>979,206</u>	<u>874,276</u>
Total			1,669,206	1,784,276
All-Wheat				
On-Farm			256,000	192,450
Off-Farm ²	<u>6,715</u>	<u>8,108</u>	<u>716,215</u>	<u>663,320</u>
Total			972,215	855,770

¹ Louisiana on farm stocks and total stocks not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations

² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors

Louisiana Rice Stocks

Date	On Farm	Off Farm ¹	Total All Positions
	(Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt)		
	Rough Rice		
March 1, 2006	3,500	6,298	9,798
August 1, 2006	2/	2/	3,446
December 1, 2006	7,800	7,080	14,880
March 1, 2007	3,800	4,924	8,724

¹ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, ports and in transit.

² Included in unallocated to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States Rice Stocks

Date	On Farm	Off Farm ¹	Total All Positions
	(Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt)		
	Rough Rice		
March 1, 2006	30,865	80,416	111,281
August 1, 2006	1,553	35,825	37,378
December 1, 2006	52,420	97,706	150,126
March 1, 2007	28,015	76,145	104,160
	Milled Rice		
March 1, 2006	---	4,572	4,572
August 1, 2006	---	3,944	3,944
December 1, 2006	---	4,044	4,044
March 1, 2007	---	4,560	4,560

¹ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, ports and in transit.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	March	February	March	March	February	March
	2006	2007	2007 ¹	2006	2007	2007 ¹
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.74	6.92	6.80	5.57	6.87	6.85
Rice, per cwt	8.06	10.10	9.96	8.05	10.10	9.86
Upland Cotton, per pound	.468	.465	.477 ²	.500	.480	.472 ²
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	97.50	114.00	117.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	65.60	61.00	61.40	87.90	86.60	91.40
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	107.00	95.10	101.00	92.80	91.50	97.20
Cows, per cwt ⁴	49.50	47.80	46.00	49.50	47.00	46.90
Calves, per cwt	129.00	112.00	119.00	139.00	117.00	123.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.370	.470	.500
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.670	.781	.770
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.80	14.90	15.70

¹ Mid-month.

² Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

³ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁴ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁵ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available.

Prices Received Index Increased 5 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 133 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points from February. The Crop Index is up 6 points and the Livestock Index increased 5 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, lettuce, oranges and broilers. Lower prices were received for strawberries, celery, corn and hogs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of strawberries, broilers and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges and corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points from March 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 134, increased 6 points from last month and increased 19 points from March 2006.

Prices Paid Index Up 2 Points

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 155 percent of the 1990-

92 average. The index is up 2 points from February and 8 points above March 2006. Higher prices in March for feed concentrates, feeder cattle, diesel fuel and complete feeds more than offset lower prices for feed grains, trucks, tractors and autos.

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