



Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Prospective Plantings for 2008
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Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Prospective Plantings For 2008

Louisiana farmers' planting intentions for 2008 point to another unusual year, based on our March 1 crop intentions survey. The projected cotton and rice planted acreages will be the lowest on record, probably due to the relatively higher prices of competing crops. The increase in soybean planted acreage from last year isn't surprising considering recent prices.

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. NASS will conduct a June 1 survey to update planted acreage estimates and will release estimates from that survey on June 30, 2008.

Louisiana's **corn** planted acreage is expected to total 560,000 acres, down 180,000 (24 percent) acres from a year ago.

Grain sorghum intentions indicate acreage will total 150,000 acres in the state, down 100,000 acres (40 percent) from 2007.

Cotton growers intend to plant 280,000 acres, down 55,000 acres (16 percent) from a year ago. This will be the lowest planted acreage on record.

Louisiana's **soybean** planted acreage is expected to increase by 305,000 acres (50 percent) from last year, to 910,000 acres.

Rice planted acreage in Louisiana is expected to drop to 340,000 acres, down 40,000 acres (11 percent) from last year. This will be the lowest planted acreage on record. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 315,000 acres. Producers intend to plant 25,000 acres of medium grain varieties.

Sweet potato planted acreage in the state, at 16,000 acres, is the same as a year ago.

Winter wheat acreage seeded last fall is estimated at 400,000 acres, up 165,000 acres (70 percent) from seedings for the 2007 crop.

An estimated 420,000 acres of **hay** will be harvested, up 20,000 acres (5 percent) from last year.

The first 2008 estimate of **sugarcane** acreage for harvest will be available on June 30, 2008.

United States Prospective Plantings

Corn growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn.

Sorghum expected planted area for all purposes in 2008 is estimated at 7.42 million acres, down 4 percent from 2007. Producers are expected to plant more acres than a year ago in the southern Great Plains area but fewer acres in the northern Great Plains. Acreage for sorghum is also expected to decline in the southeast portion of the U.S.

All Cotton plantings for 2008 are expected to total 9.39 million acres, down 13 percent from last year. **Upland acreage** is expected to total 9.19 million acres, 13 percent below last year and the lowest since 1983. **American-Pima** cotton growers intend to plant 203,600 acres, down 30 percent from last year.

Soybeans growers intend to plant an estimated 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from the acreage planted in 2007. Last year, many soybean growers switched from soybeans to corn as ethanol expansion strongly increased the demand for corn. In contrast, many growers intend to plant more soybeans this year due to high prices and strong demand for soybeans.

All Rice planted area is estimated at 2.77 million acres, up 9,000 acres from 2007, but 2 percent less than was planted in 2006. Despite rising prices, increases in input costs and high prices for competing commodities have growers weighing the benefits of increasing acreage. Growers in Arkansas, the largest rice producing State, intend to plant 1.37 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. Planted acreage in California and Texas is also expected to increase, while acreage in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri is expected to decrease from 2007.

Sweet Potatoes growers intend to plant 103,800 acres for 2008, up 3 percent from last year and 9 percent above 2006.

All Wheat planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.63 million acres are White Winter.

Hay Producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of all hay in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the Great Plains, Southeast, and Southwest. The State with the largest expected decrease is Texas, down 390,000 acres from 2007. South Dakota and Nebraska are expected to be down 300,000 acres and 150,000 acres, respectively.

Prospective Plantings: Louisiana and United States, March 1, 2008, with 2007 Comparisons

Crop	Louisiana			United States		
	2007	2008	% Change	2007	2008	% Change
	----- Thousand Acres -----			----- Thousand Acres -----		
Corn	740	560	-24	96,600	86,014	-8
All Cotton	335	280	-16	10,830	9,390	-13
All Rice	380	340	-10	2,761	2,770	---
Sorghum	250	150	-40	7,718	7,415	-4
Soybeans	605	910	+50	63,631	74,793	+18
Sweet potatoes	16	16	---	101.6	103.8	+3
All Wheat	235	400	+70	60,433	63,803	+6
Hay ¹	400	420	+5	61,625	60,583	-2

¹ Harvesting intentions.

Louisiana Grain Stocks

Corn stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2008, at 27.7 million bushels, were up 77 percent from last year's 15.6 million bushels.

Sorghum stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2008, at 1.48 million bushels, were down 25 percent from last year's 1.97 million bushels.

Soybean stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2008, at 8.96 million bushels, were up 75 percent from last year's 5.13 million bushels.

All wheat stocks stored off-farm on March 1, 2008, at 3.86 million bushels, were down 52 percent from the 8.11 million bushels stored a year ago.

Louisiana Rice Stocks

Rough rice stocks reported in all positions on March 1, 2008, totaled 7.17 million cwt, down 18 percent from the 8.72 million cwt stored a year ago.

Louisiana and U.S. Grain Stocks, March 1, 2007 - 2008

Item	Louisiana ¹		United States	
	March 1		March 1	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	-----Thousand Bushels-----		-----Thousand Bushels-----	
Corn				
On-Farm			3,330,000	3,780,000
Off-Farm ²	<u>15,596</u>	<u>27,670</u>	<u>2,738,250</u>	<u>3,078,895</u>
Total			6,068,250	6,858,895
Sorghum				
On-Farm			17,100	26,100
Off-Farm ²	<u>1,970</u>	<u>1,481</u>	<u>125,122</u>	<u>159,471</u>
Total			142,222	185,571
Soybeans				
On-Farm			910,000	593,000
Off-Farm ²	<u>5,132</u>	<u>8,961</u>	<u>876,887</u>	<u>835,102</u>
Total			1,786,887	1,428,102
All-Wheat				
On-Farm			192,450	91,990
Off-Farm ²	<u>8,108</u>	<u>3,864</u>	<u>664,278</u>	<u>617,650</u>
Total			856,728	709,640

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, 2007	3,800	4,924	8,724
August 1, 2007	150	1,636	1,786
December 1, 2007	9,050	6,991	16,041
March 1, 2008	2,350	4,820	7,170

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, 2007	28,015	76,145	104,160
August 1, 2007	1,220	33,713	34,933
December 1, 2007	48,250	102,815	151,065
March 1, 2008	22,923	81,199	104,122
	Milled Rice		
March 1, 2007	---	4,560	4,560
August 1, 2007	---	3,111	3,111
December 1, 2007	---	5,269	5,269
March 1, 2008	---	5,604	5,604

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

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	January	February		January – February		February		January – February	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	----- Number, thousand head -----					----- Number, thousand head -----			
Cattle	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.5	1.1	2,561.2	2,643.2	5,361.4	5,541.7
Calves	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	66.7	69.1	141.0	140.5
Hogs	1.4	1.6	1.5	3.0	2.9	8,117.3	9,378.1	17,482.3	19,935.2
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	204.7	211.4	419.5	424.8
	----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----					----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----			
Cattle	463	669	438	1,322	901	3,249,960	3,383,319	6,846,448	7,111,753
Calves	136	180	147	320	283	20,375	18,577	44,232	37,562
Hogs	295	340	354	611	649	2,183,764	2,534,773	4,718,891	5,410,234
Sheep & Lambs	16	35	31	44	47	28,708	30,111	58,905	59,760
	----- Average live weight, pounds -----					----- Average live weight, pounds -----			
Cattle	770	944	819	881	819	1,274	1,285	1,282	1,288
Calves	514	525	506	533	472	308	272	316	271
Hogs	205	211	229	204	224	269	271	270	272
Sheep & Lambs	83	101	90	110	94	140	143	140	141
	----- Million pounds -----					----- Million pounds -----			
Red Meat	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.5	1.2	3,615.4	3,967.6	7,707.9	8,383.5

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during February totaled 600,000 pounds, unchanged from January but 25 percent below the previous year.

There were 500 head of **cattle** slaughtered during February, down 100 head from January and 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 819 pounds, up 49 pounds from the previous month but 125 pounds below February 2007. Total live weight, at 438,000 pounds, was 5 percent below the previous month and 35 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 506 pounds, down 8 pounds from January and 19 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 147,000 pounds, was up 8 percent from January but 18 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during February totaled 1,500 head, up 100 head from the previous month but 100 head below February 2007. Average live weight was 229 pounds, up 24 pounds from January and 18 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 354,000 pounds, 20 percent above January and 4 percent above a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during February was 300 head, up 100 head from January but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 90 pounds, up 7 pounds from the previous month but 11 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.0 billion pounds in February, up 10 percent from the 3.6 billion pounds produced in February 2007.

February 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. **February 2007** contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.0 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.6 million head, up 3 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.0 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,100 head, up 4 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 272 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.9 billion pounds, up 16 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.4 million head, up 16 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from February 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 211,400 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2008 commercial red meat production was 8.4 billion pounds, up 9 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 15 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

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
	2007	2008	2008 ¹	2007	2008	2008 ¹
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Soybeans, per bushel	2/	9.31	2/	6.95	11.70	11.90
Rice, per cwt	9.94	12.70	13.80	10.00	12.50	12.90
Upland Cotton, per pound	.473	.558	.562 ³	.464 ³	.619	.614 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	119.00	133.00	139.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	61.70	65.30	64.00	91.60	89.00	88.70
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	102.00	98.70	95.00	97.70	94.20	93.80
Cows, per cwt ⁵	46.00	52.30	52.00	47.20	51.40	52.20
Calves, per cwt	120.00	109.00	107.00	122.00	120.00	120.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.500	.500	.510
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.828	1.310	1.380
Milk, all, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.60	19.10	18.30

¹Mid-month.

²Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴“Cows” and “steers and heifers” combined.

⁵Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.
n/a = not available.

Prices Received Index Increased 3 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points from February. The Crop Index was up 8 points but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce and eggs and lower prices for milk, snap beans, strawberries and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index was affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, milk and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton and oranges.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 17 points from March 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 149, increased 3 points from last month and increased 15 points from March 2007.

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Prices Paid Index Up 3 Points

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 176 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 3 points from February and 17 points above March 2007. Higher prices in March for diesel fuel, nitrogen fertilizers, complete feed and feed supplements more than offset lower prices for potash & phosphate materials, feeder cattle, trucks and autos.

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