



News Release

In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture

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2006 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY

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Louisiana 2006 Crop Acreage and Production

In spite of all the varied weather conditions Louisiana's producers faced during 2006, most crops yields were average or above. Soybeans set a new record yield, while corn, cotton and sorghum yields reached their second highest levels. On the down side, Louisiana's 2006 rice planted acreage was the lowest planted acreage on record for the state. This was due to the effects of the salt water from Hurricane Rita as well as economic considerations.

Cotton production is estimated at 1.25 million bales, up 14 percent from 2005. The 2006 planted acreage was estimated at 635,000 acres, up 4 percent from the previous year. An estimated 630,000 acres were harvested, up 5 percent from 2005. Yield per acre was 952 pounds, up 74 pounds from 2005.

Sugarcane production for sugar and seed is estimated at 11.75 million net tons, up 13 percent from 2005. An estimated 435,000 acres were harvested, down 4 percent from 2005. Net yield is estimated at 27.0 tons per acre, up 4.1 tons from the 2005 yield.

Soybean production is estimated at 29.4 million bushels, up 2 percent from 2005. Total planted acreage was 870,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2005. Louisiana farmers harvested an estimated 840,000 acres, also down 10,000 acres from the previous year. Yield was 35 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from 2005, setting a new record yield for the state.

All rice production is estimated at 20.1 million cwt, down 35 percent from 2005. Production of long grain varieties is estimated at 19.5 million cwt, and production of medium grain varieties is estimated at 596,000 cwt. The planted acreage estimate for rice was 350,000 acres, 180,000 acres fewer than in 2005. This is the lowest planted acres recorded in the state since record keeping began in 1929. An estimated 345,000 acres of rice were harvested, down 34 percent from 2005. The statewide yield averaged 5,820 pounds per acre, down 80 pounds from the previous year's record yield.

Production of **corn for grain** is estimated at 40.6 million bushels, down 10 percent from 2005. The state planted and harvested acreage estimates for 2006 were 300,000 acres and 290,000 acres, respectively, both down 12 percent from 2005. Yield per acre, at 140 bushels, was up 4 bushels from 2005.

Production of **sorghum for grain** is estimated at 8.4 million bushels, compared to 8.7 million in 2005. Total planted acreage was estimated at 90,000 acres, of which 87,000 acres were harvested for grain. Yield per acre, at 96 bushels, was down 3 bushels from 2005's record yield.

Sweet potato production is estimated at 2.23 million cwt, down 10 percent from 2005. An estimated 18,000 acres were planted in 2006, unchanged from 2005. Harvested acreage was estimated at 13,500 acres, down 21 percent from the previous year. The statewide yield averaged 165 cwt per acre, up 20 cwt from last year's yield.

All hay production in 2006 is estimated at 975,000 tons, up 21 percent from 2005. An estimated 390,000 acres were harvested in 2006, up 40,000 acres from the previous year. Yield was 2.5 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from 2005.

United States 2006 Crop Production

Upland cotton production is estimated at 21.0 million bales, up 2 percent from the December 1 forecast but 10 percent below last year's record high production. The U.S. yield for upland cotton is estimated at 811 pounds per acre, up 21 pounds from last month but 14 pounds below last year's yield. Harvested acreage, at 12.4 million acres, is down less than 1 percent from last month and 8 percent below last year. Upland planted area, estimated at 14.9 million acres, is 7 percent above last year.

Production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed is estimated at 29.5 million tons, 1 percent below the December forecast but 11 percent above last year's 26.6 million tons. Area harvested and to be harvested for sugar and seed is estimated at 908,800 acres for the 2006 crop year, down 1 percent from 2005. Of the total area for harvest, 856,300 acres are for sugar and 52,500 for seed. Though total acreage is unchanged from the December forecast, 5,000 more acres will be harvested for sugar and 5,000 fewer acres will be harvested for seed. Yield is estimated at 32.4 tons per acre, 0.5 ton below last month but 3.5 tons higher than in 2005.

Soybean production in 2006 totals 3.19 billion bushels, the largest U.S. soybean crop in history. This is down less than 1 percent from the November forecast but 4 percent above the 2005 production. The average yield per acre is estimated at 42.7 bushels, 0.3 bushel below both the November forecast and last year's record high yield. Planted area for the U.S., at a record high 75.5 million acres, is up 5 percent from 2005. Soybean growers harvested a record high 74.6 million acres, also up 5 percent from last year and up fractionally from November. New record highs for planted and harvested area were set in Kansas, Nebraska, New York, and North Dakota, while Pennsylvania tied their previous record high for both planted and harvested acreage.

Rice production in 2006 is estimated at 194 million cwt, down 13 percent from last year's crop but up less than 1 percent from the November forecast. Planted area, at 2.84 million acres, is down 16 percent from 2005. Area for harvest, at 2.82 million acres, is also down 16 percent from last year. The average yield for all U.S. rice is estimated at 6,868 pounds per acre, 232 pounds above the 2005 yield.

U.S. **corn for grain** production is estimated at 10.5 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the November forecast and 5 percent lower than in 2005. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 149.1 bushels per acre, 2.1 bushels below the November forecast but 1.1 bushels above 2005. This is the second highest yield on record, behind 2004. Production is the third largest on record. Regionally, estimated yields are higher than last year in the eastern Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and middle Atlantic Coast where frequent rainfall and near normal temperatures prevailed throughout much of the growing season which helped to maintain good growing conditions. Yields in the northern Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt, as well as the central Great Plains and Southeast are below last year due to scarce precipitation and above normal temperatures.

Sorghum grain production in 2006 is estimated at 278 million bushels, down 4 percent from the November forecast and 29 percent below 2005. Planted area is estimated at 6.52 million acres, up 1 percent from last year; area harvested for grain, at 4.94 million acres, is down 14 percent from 2005.

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Louisiana: Acreage, Yield and Production, 2006, with Comparisons

Commodity	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Unit		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	Yield	Prod.	2005	2006
	-----Thousand Acres-----		-----Units-----				-----Thousand Units-----	
Corn, Grain	330	290	136	140	bushels	bushels	44,880	40,600
Corn, Silage	5	5	18.0	14.0	tons	tons	90	70
Cotton, Lint, All	600	630	878	952	pounds	bales ¹	1,098	1,250
Cottonseed ²	---	---	---	---	tons	tons	364.0	425
Hay, All (baled)	350	390	2.3	2.5	tons	tons	805	975
Rice, Long Grain	515	335	5,900	5,820	pounds	cwt	30,385	19,497
Rice, Medium	10	10	5,980	5,960	pounds	cwt	598	596
Rice, All	525	345	5,900	5,820	pounds	cwt	30,983	20,093
Sorghum, Grain	88	87	99	96	bushels	bushels	8,712	8,352
Sorghum, Silage	---	1	---	10	tons	tons	---	10
Soybeans	850	840	34	35	bushels	bushels	28,900	29,400
Sugarcane, All ³	455	435	22.9	27.0	net tons	net tons	10,420	11,745
Sweet Potatoes	17.0	13.5	145	165	cwt	cwt	2,465	2,228
Wheat, Winter	100	105	48.0	53.0	bushels	bushels	4,800	5,565

United States: Acreage, Yield and Production, 2006, with Comparisons

Commodity	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Unit		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	Yield	Prod.	2005	2006
	-----Thousand Acres-----		-----Units-----				-----Thousand Units-----	
Corn, Grain	75,117	70,648	148.0	149.0	bushels	bushels	11,114,082	10,534,868
Corn, Silage	5,930	6,477	18.0	16.2	tons	tons	106,486	104,849
Cotton, Lint, All	13,802.6	12,731.5	831	819	pounds	bales ¹	23,890.2	21,729.0
Cottonseed ²	---	---	---	---	tons	tons	8,172.1	7,632.0
Hay, All (baled)	61,729	60,807	2.45	2.33	tons	tons	151,017	141,666
Rice, Long Grain	2,734	2,186	6,493	6,689	pounds	cwt	177,527	146,214
Rice, Medium	575	574	7,375	7,631	pounds	cwt	42,408	43,802
Rice, All	3,364	2,821	6,636	6,868	pounds	cwt	223,235	193,736
Sorghum, Grain	5,736	4,937	68.5	56.2	bushels	bushels	392,933	277,538
Sorghum, Silage	311	347	13.6	13.4	tons	tons	4,218	4,642
Soybeans	71,251	74,602	43.0	42.7	bushels	bushels	3,063,237	3,188,247
Sugarcane, All ³	921.9	908.8	28.9	32.4	net tons	net tons	26,606	29,489
Sweet Potatoes	88.4	87.2	178	189	cwt	cwt	15,730	16,441
Wheat, Winter	33,794	31,117	44.4	41.7	bushels	bushels	1,499,129	1,298,081

¹ 480-pound net weight bale.

² Estimates based on 3-year average lint-seed ratio.

³ Harvested for sugar and seed.

Louisiana: Season Average Price and Value of Production¹

Crop	Unit	Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		2005	2006	2005	2006
		----- Dollars -----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----	
Corn, Grain	bushel	2.25	2.80	100,980	113,680
Cotton Lint, All	pound	.470	2/ .474	247,709	2/ 284,400
Cottonseed	ton	87.50	97.00	31,850	41,225
Hay, All (baled)	ton	57.00	63.00	45,885	61,425
Rice, All	cwt	7.47	10.00	231,443	200,930
Sorghum, Grain	cwt	3.80	4.70	18,539	21,982
Soybeans, Beans	bushel	5.97	5.95	172,533	174,930
Sugarcane, All	ton	27.10	3/	282,382	3/
Sweet Potatoes	cwt	16.20	17.80	39,933	39,658
Wheat, Winter	bushel	3.20	3.60	15,360	20,034
TOTAL FIELD & MISC. CROPS				1,186,614	1,276,554
TOTAL FRUITS & NUTS				6,875	18,902
TOTAL VALUE PRINCIPAL CROPS				1,193,489	1,295,456

United States: Season Average Price and Value of Production¹

Crop	Unit	Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		2005	2006	2005	2006
		----- Dollars -----		----- 1,000 Dollars -----	
Corn, Grain	bushel	2.00	3.20	22,198,472	33,837,454
Cotton Lint, All	pound	.497	2/ .496	5,695,217	2/ 5,175,723
Cottonseed	ton	96.00	110.00	779,500	842,941
Hay, All (baled)	ton	98.20	109.00	12,584,783	13,506,119
Rice, All	cwt	7.65	9.75	1,741,721	1,906,895
Sorghum, Grain	cwt	3.33	5.90	737,038	871,885
Soybeans, Beans	bushel	5.66	6.20	17,269,138	19,693,861
Sugarcane, All	ton	28.40	3/	754,529	3/
Sweet Potatoes	cwt	18.00	18.10	282,548	298,367
Wheat, All	bushel	3.42	4.25	7,171,441	7,721,028
Wheat, Winter	bushel	3.32	4.20	4,954,276	5,397,432

¹ 2006 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, 2006 – December 31, 2006.

³ Available June 11, 2007, in the "Crop Production" report.

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Average grain yield, at 56.2 bushels per acre, is up 2.0 bushels from the previous forecast but down 12.3 bushels from last year. The acres harvested for grain is the lowest since 1939 while production is the lowest since 1956.

Sweet Potatoes production in 2006 is estimated at 16.4 million cwt, up 5 percent from last season and 2 percent above 2004. An increase in yield more than offset the decrease in harvested acres. Growers harvested 87,200 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Yield per acre, at 189 cwt, is up 11 cwt from the previous record high yield in 2005. Production increased 26 percent in Virginia, 24 percent in Texas, 18 percent in North Carolina, 14 percent in California, and 4 percent in New Jersey. Production declined 20 percent in Mississippi, 12 percent in South Carolina, 10 percent in Louisiana and 2 percent in Alabama.

All Hay (dry) production for 2006 is estimated at 142 million tons, down 4 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 6 percent from the 2005 total. Area harvested, at 60.8 million acres, is down 3 percent from the October forecast and down 1 percent from 2005. The average yield, at 2.33 tons per acre, is down 0.02 ton from October and down 0.12 ton from the previous year.

All Wheat production totaled 1.81 billion bushels in 2006, unchanged from the Small Grains 2006 Summary but 14 percent below 2005. Grain area was 46.8 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. The U.S. yield was 38.7 bushels per acre, down 3.3 bushels from last year. The level of production and change from last year by type were: winter wheat, 1.30 billion bushels, down 13 percent; other spring wheat, 460 million bushels, down 9 percent; Durum wheat, 53.5 million bushels, down 47 percent.

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