

On March 1 Crop Report

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LOUISIANA COTTON ACREAGE EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY 24 PERCENT

“Louisiana’s 2005 cotton planted acreage is expected to be up 24 percent from last year, based on our March 1 intentions survey,” says Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Crisp notes that planting intentions for rice, sorghum and sweet potatoes are also up from 2004, and harvested acreage of hay is expected to increase.

“These intentions reflect the economic and weather conditions as of March 1,” Crisp cautions. “Actual acreage planted may increase or decrease based on conditions for 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 30, 2005.

Cotton growers intend to plant 620,000 acres, up 120,000 acres, or 24 percent, from a year ago.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to decrease 23 percent from last year, to 850,000 acres. Additional questions on Asian Soybean Rust were asked during the March survey. Eight percent of Louisiana’s soybean producers reported that Asian Soybean Rust was a decision making factor in their soybean planting intentions for 2005; 75 percent of these producers reported that their planting intentions decreased due to rust.

Rice planted acreage is expected to increase to 550,000 acres, 2 percent more than last year. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 540,000 acres. Growers intend to plant 10,000 acres of medium grain varieties, down 23 percent from 2004.

Corn planted acreage is expected to total 390,000 acres, down 7 percent from a year ago.

Grain sorghum intentions indicate acreage will total 100,000, up 15,000 acres from a year ago.

Sweet potato planted acreage, at 17,000 acres, is up 6 percent from a year ago.

Winter wheat seeded last fall is estimated at 130,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from 2004.

An estimated 400,000 acres of hay will be harvested, up 8 percent from last year.

An estimate of sugarcane acreage for harvest will be available on June 30, 2005.

-30-

MARCH 1, 2005 - PLANTING INTENTIONS

CROP	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	2004	2005	% CHANGE	2004	2005	% CHANGE
	----- Thousand Acres -----			----- Thousand Acres -----		
Corn	420	390	-7	80,930	81,413	+1
Upland Cotton	500	620	+24	13,409	13,540	+1
Rice	538	550	+2	3,347	3,358	---
Sorghum	85	100	+18	7,486	7,400	-1
Soybeans	1,100	850	-23	75,208	73,910	-2
Sweet Potatoes	16	17	+6	97.4	94.9	-3
All Wheat	180	130	-28	59,674	58,592	-2
Hay ¹	370	400	+8	61,916	62,940	+2

¹Harvesting intentions

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