



Press Release

National
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Service

In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture

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Louisiana Expected to Set New Record Yields for Several Crops

“As harvest season has progressed, corn, rice and soybean yields have exceeded earlier expectations, and we are expecting to set new state records,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Cotton and sorghum yield prospects have also continued to improve,” Crisp continued.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 116.8 million bushels, up 7 percent from the previous month’s estimate and up 188 percent from a year ago. An estimated 730,000 acres will be harvested for grain, a 152 percent increase from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 160 bushels, is up 10 bushels from last month and surpasses by 12 bushels the record yield set in 2001. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up 26 percent from 2006.

Soybean production is expected to total 22.6 million bushels in Louisiana, up 5 percent from the August 1 estimate but down 23 percent from 2006. An estimated 580,000 acres will be harvested, down 31 percent from 2006. Yield is forecast at 39 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the previous month and up 4 bushels from last year’s record yield. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at 2.6 billion bushels, down 18 percent from 2006.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 22.4 million cwt, down 1 percent from the previous month but up 11 percent from 2006. Rice harvested acreage was revised to 373,000 acres, down 12,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,000 pounds, up 100 pounds from previous month and up 180 pounds from last year. If realized, this will set a new record yield for Louisiana, exceeding the record yield of 5,900 pounds set in 2005. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 192.0 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year and down 14 percent from 2005.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 650,000 bales, down 591,000 bales from 2006. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest was revised to 325,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. The expected yield per acre, at 960 pounds, is up 14 pounds from 2006. If realized, this will be the next highest yield in the state’s history, second only to the 967 pound yield in 2003. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 17.0 million bales, down 18 percent from last year’s 20.8 million bales.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.2 million net tons, down 2 percent from the previous month but up 3 percent from last year. Estimated production is down from last month as harvested acreage for sugar and seed was revised from 430,000 acres to 420,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 29 net tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 estimate but up 1.7 net tons from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2007 is forecast at 30.4 million net tons, 3 percent above last year.

Sorghum production is estimated at 19.7 million bushels in the state, up 3 percent from the August 1 estimate and up 136 percent from 2006. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 205,000 acres, 118,000 acres more than last year. Yield is forecast at 96 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from last month but unchanged from last year. U.S. production for **sorghum** is forecast at 495 million bushels, up 78 percent from last year.