National **Agricultural** Statistics Service

In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture

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Louisiana Cotton Yield Expected to Top 1,000 Pounds Per Acre

"Louisiana's cotton crop is expected to yield 1,034 pounds per acre, surpassing the previous record set in 2003 by 67 pounds per acre," said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. "All field crops will surpass last year's yields, and cotton, corn, rice and soybeans are expected to set new records," Crisp added.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 700,000 bales, up 4 percent from last month but 44 percent lower than in 2006. Acreage harvested is estimated at 325,000 acres. The yield per acre, at 1,034 pounds, is up 44 pounds from last month and 88 pounds above 2006. If realized, this will be the highest yield in the state's history. Upland cotton production for the U.S. is forecast at 18.1 million bales, down 13 percent from last year.

The Louisiana sugarcane crop is estimated at 12.2 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but up 3 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 420,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 29 net tons per acre, unchanged from the October estimate but up 1.7 tons from 2006. U.S. production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2007 is forecast at 30.4 million net tons, 3 percent above last year.

Louisiana rice production is forecast at 23.3 million cwt, up 3 percent from the October estimate and up 16 percent from 2006. Rice acreage for harvest is estimated at 373,000 acres. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,250 pounds, up 200 pounds from last month and up 430 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, surpassing the previous record of 5,900 pounds per acre set in 2005. U.S. rice production is forecast at 198 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year.

Soybean production is expected to total 23.6 million bushels in Louisiana, unchanged from the October estimate but down 20 percent from a year ago. Acreage of soybeans expected for harvest is 590,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 40 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month but up 5 bushels from the previous record of 35 bushels per acre set last year. U.S. soybean production is forecast at 2.6 billion bushels, down 19 percent from 2006.

Louisiana's corn production is forecast at 124.1 million bushels, unchanged from the previous month but up 206 percent from 2006. An estimated 730,000 acres will be harvested for grain. Yield per acre, at 170 bushels, unchanged from the October estimate but up 30 bushels from last year. This is the highest yield on record, surpassing the previous record set in 2001 by 22 bushels per acre. U.S. corn production is forecast at 13.2 billion bushels, up 25 percent from 2006.

Sorghum production is estimated at 23.8 million bushels in the state, up 1 percent from the October estimate and 185 percent greater than last year. Sorghum harvested acreage is estimated at 245,000 acres. Yield is forecast at 97 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from both the previous month and 2006. U.S. production of sorghum is forecast at 514.7 million bushels, up 85 percent from 2006.