



FIELD CROPS

CROP PRODUCTION

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October 28, 2008

FLORIDA

WEATHER: Although rain was not plentiful for northern Florida in early September, some fields were still very wet and trying to dry out from Tropical Storm Fay. A few growers reported losses, such as pecans in Jefferson County and cotton in Nassau County. Several areas were not affected by winds or flooding and as a result, expected good yields. Corn harvesting wrapped up and peanut harvesting began around mid-month. The occasional shower delayed field work, but the rain was needed for most locations. Growers began harvesting cotton towards the end of the month. By the last week of September, peanut condition was rated 34 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Peanut digging was 30 percent complete compared to 22 percent last year.

COTTON: Based on conditions existing on October 1, yield is forecast at 775 pounds per acre, up 37 pounds from last month's forecast. Production is expected to total 105,000 (480 pound) bales, down 11,000 bales from last year. Growers expect to harvest 65,000 acres, down from last year's 81,000 acres. Wet fields caused damage in some areas of Jackson and Nassau counties. Most other locations described their fields as doing well.

PEANUTS: As of October 1, yield is expected to average 3,400 pounds per acre, up 26 percent from last year. Growers expect to harvest 133,000 acres, which is unchanged from last month's estimate and up 14,000 acres from last year. Production is forecast at 452.2 million pounds, up 41 percent from last year. In early September, there was some concern over disease from the heavy rains of Tropical Storm Fay. As fields dried, growers applied fungicide. Most fields in the State looked good. Drier soils allowed harvest to begin mid-September.

PECANS: Production of this alternate year bearing crop is anticipated at 1,700,000 pounds, down from the 2007 production of 1,900,000 pounds. Eighty two percent of the crop or 1,400,000 pounds will come from improved varieties. Most growers do not anticipate harvest until late October. Growers expect a good year overall, with disease problems under control.

SUGARCANE: All acreage for harvest is set at 400,000 acres, unchanged from September estimate, but up 7,000 acres or 2 percent from the previous season's acreage of 393,000 acres. Yield is expected to average 39.0 tons per acre, down 0.4 ton per acre from the September estimate, but up 2.9 tons or 8 percent from last year. Production calculated to 15.6 million tons, down 16,000 tons from the September forecast, but up 1,423,000 tons from a year ago. Excessive rainfall from T.S. Fay provided plentiful soil moisture and did little damage to the crop. Extremely dry spring weather stressed the crop but with ample summer rainfall produced above average yield.

Update Alert

In calculating crop acreage, NASS draws upon several data sources, including farmer reported surveys, satellite imagery, and acreage data reported by producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). After the October 10 Crop Production report was released, FSA analysts noted a discrepancy between the acreage numbers in the raw data on the FSA mainframe and the data provided to NASS. Using the definitive source data from the FSA mainframe database, NASS repeated its acreage estimation process for dry edible beans, canola, corn, sorghum, soybeans, and sunflower. As a result, this report was reissued on October 28 to reflect corrected acreage and production estimates. All tables, charts, and narratives affected by these corrections have been updated.

UNITED STATES

COTTON: Upland cotton harvested area, at 7.59 million acres, is down 1 percent from last month and down 26 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested acres are unchanged from last month but down 41 percent from last year. In the Southeastern States, Tropical Storm Hannah made landfall during the first week of September bringing much needed precipitation to the Carolinas and Virginia. By mid-September, dry conditions and cooler temperature allowed producers to begin defoliation of the crop. By the end of the month, harvest had begun throughout the region, behind last year and normal. The crop was rated in mostly fair to good condition. Due to the effects of Hurricane Gustav, Louisiana producers abandoned an additional 25,000 acres since last month's forecast. The crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition in Missouri and Tennessee. In Louisiana, the crop was rated in mostly poor to very poor condition and objective yield counts showed the lowest bolls per acre and the lowest boll weights in the last 5 years. In Mississippi, bolls per acre are the lowest in the last five years and boll weights are the second lightest. American-Pima production is forecast at 451,000 bales, down 2 percent from September and down 47 percent from last year. The U.S. yield forecast is 1,273 pounds per acre, down 23 pounds from last month and down 146 pounds from last year. The crop was progressing normally throughout Arizona and California and harvest was beginning by late September. Ginnings totaled 817,200 running bales prior to October 1, compared with 1,566,300 running bales ginned prior to the same date last year and 2,572,150 running bales in 2006.

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 4.93 billion pounds, up 3 percent from last month and up 34 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.49 million acres, unchanged from September but up 25 percent from 2007. Yields are expected to average 3,298 pounds per acre, up 110 pounds from last month and up 222 pounds from 2007. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) is expected to total 3.58 billion pounds, up 4 percent from September and up 39 percent from last year. Expected area for harvest, at 1.10 million acres, is unchanged from September but up 26 percent from 2007. Yields in the region are expected to average 3,260 pounds per acre, up 124 pounds from last month and 298 pounds above last year. Yields are forecast higher than last year in all Southeast States, and record yields are forecast in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and South Carolina. As of September 28, harvest in most of the Southeast States was on pace with the five-year average. Virginia-North Carolina production is forecast at 378 million pounds, up 8 percent from the September 1 forecast and up 21 percent from 2007. Expected area for harvest, at 121,000 acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 9 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 3,124 pounds per acre, up 224 pounds from the September forecast and up 300 pounds from 2007. Harvest was underway in both States as of September 28. Southwest peanut production (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) is expected to total 973 million pounds, up slightly from last month and up 24 percent from 2007. Expected acreage for harvest, at 276,000, is unchanged

from last month but up 29 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3,526 pounds per acre for the region, up 6 pounds from the September forecast but down 141 pounds from the previous year.

PECANS: The October 1, 2008 forecast of pecan production is 204 million pounds (in-shell basis), down 47 percent from last year's crop and 2 percent below 2006. Improved varieties are expected to produce 171 million pounds or 84 percent of the total, while native and seedling varieties, at 32.8 million pounds, make up the remaining 16 percent. The 2008 crop is expected to be smaller than last year's in most producing States mainly because it is an off year in the alternate bearing pattern typical of pecans. However, production is forecast higher than last year in Kansas and Missouri because trees have recovered from the severe Easter 2007 freeze, while North Carolina and South Carolina weather conditions have been much more favorable than last season.

SUGARCANE: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2008 is forecast at 29.9 million tons, down slightly from the September forecast and from 2007. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 868,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 2008 crop year, unchanged from September but up 11,100 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 34.4 tons per acre, down 0.2 ton from the September forecast but up 0.3 ton from 2007. Harvested acreage in Florida is up 7,000 acres from last year, while yield is up 2.9 tons, resulting in a production forecast 10 percent above last year. Acres harvested for sugar and seed in Louisiana followed the opposite trend, down 15,000 from 2007. Yield is down 3.4 tons from last year and production is down 14 percent from 2007. Yields are forecast above last year in all States except Louisiana, where excessive rains and winds from Hurricane Gustav negatively affected the crop.

CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of October 1, 2008 with comparisons ^{1/}

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2007	For harvest 2008	2007	Indicated 2008		2007	Indicated 2008
	<i>Thousands</i>					<i>Thousands</i>	
FLORIDA							
Cotton	81	65	687	775	^{2/}	116	105
Peanuts	119	133	2,700	3,400	Lbs.	321,300	452,200
Pecans, All					Lbs.	1,900	1,700
Improved Varieties					Lbs.	1,700	1,400
Native and Seedling					Lbs.	200	300
Potatoes: ^{3/}							
Spring	27.2	27.9	287	288	Cwt	7,807	8,037
Sugarcane	393	400	36.1	39.0	Ton	14,177	15,600
UNITED STATES							
*Corn for grain	86,542	78,177	151.1	153.9	Bu.	13,073,893	12,033,368
Cotton, All ^{4/}	10,489.1	7,755.0	879	849	^{2/}	19,206.9	13,711.0
Hay, Alfalfa	2,1670	20,778	3.35	3.44	Ton	72,575	71,424
Hay, All Other	39,955	39,661	1.95	1.99	Ton	77,729	79,076
Peanuts for nuts ^{5/}	1,195	1,494	3,076	3,298	Lbs.	3,675,250	4,927,650
Pecans, All					Lbs.	385,305	204,060
Improved Varieties					Lbs.	302,162	171,300
Native and Seedling					Lbs.	83,143	32,760
Potatoes:							
Winter	11.5	11.0	215	230	Cwt	2,473	2,530
Spring	70.2	67.7	282	289	Cwt	19,820	19,573
Summer	51.2	46.2	332	324	Cwt	16,997	14,946
Fall	996.8	916.2	409	^{6/}	Cwt	407,517	^{6/}
Rice	2,748	2,924	7,185	6,982	^{7/}	197,456	204,141
*Sorghum for grain	6,805	7,385	74.2	63.9	Bu.	504,993	471,921
*Soybeans for beans	64,141	74,374	41.7	39.5	Bu.	2,675,822	2,938,313
Sugarbeets	1,246.8	1,053.1	25.6	26.5	Ton	31,912	27,958
Sugarcane for							
Sugar and seed	879.6	868.5	34.1	34.4	Ton	29,969	29,855
Tobacco, All	356.0	356.0	2,191	2,261	Lbs.	779,899	804,927
Wheat, All:	51,011	55,685	40.5	44.9	Bu.	2,066,722	2,499,524
Winter	35,952	39,614	42.2	47.2	Bu.	1,515,989	1,867,903
Durum	2,112	2,584	33.9	32.8	Bu.	71,686	84,877
Other spring	12,947	13,487	37.0	40.5	Bu.	479,047	546,744

^{1/} Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2008 crop year.

^{2/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

^{3/} Winter potatoes combined with spring.

^{4/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

^{5/} 2007 revised.

^{6/} First forecast in November.

^{7/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. Includes sweet rice production.

* Reflects changes to October 10, 2008 Crop Production release.