

Alternative Crop Returns Push Rice Acreage Down



The 2013/14 U.S. rice crop is projected at 189.5 million cwt, 5 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 1998/99. The decrease in production is the result of both smaller plantings and expectations of a lower yield. At 2.61 million acres, U.S. rice plantings are down 3 percent from a year earlier and the smallest since 1987/88.

Rice acreage for 2013/14 is indicated lower in all reported States except Louisiana and Texas, with the Delta reporting the largest decline.

The average yield, projected at 7,317 pounds per acre, is almost 2 percent below last year, but still the second highest on record. The all-rice yield projection is based on 1982-2012 trends by class.

By class, long-grain production is projected at 135.5 million cwt, down 6 percent from a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain crop is projected at 54.0 million cwt, a reduction of 2.4 percent from last year.

Planting of 2013/14 U.S. Rice Crop Remains Well Behind Normal Pace in the Delta

For the week ending May 5, 55 percent of the U.S. rice crop was reported planted, well behind the record 77 percent a year earlier and the U.S. 5-year average of 66 percent. Planting was slower than normal across most of the Delta, but about normal on the Gulf Coast and well ahead of average in California. The Delta has experienced an abnormally cool and wet spring that has delayed planting and crop progress. In Arkansas, just 48 percent of the crop was reported planted by May 5, down from a 5-year average of 72 percent. Mississippi's 2013/14 rice crop was just 14-percent planted by May 5, well behind the State's 5-year average of 80 percent.

By May 5, 36 percent of the U.S. 2013/14 rice crop had emerged, behind the U.S. average of 47 percent. Like planting, emergence was well behind across most of the Delta, about normal on the Gulf Coast, and ahead of normal in California. In Arkansas, 25 percent of the 2013/14 rice crop had emerged by May 5, barely half the State's 5-year average of 51 percent. In Mississippi, 11 percent of the 2013/14 rice crop had emerged by May 5, sharply behind the State's 5-year average of 62 percent. In contrast, 41 percent of Missouri's rice crop had emerged by May 5, slightly ahead of the State's 5-year average of 36 percent.

On the Gulf Coast, 83 percent of Louisiana's crop had emerged by May 5, even with the State's 5-year average. In Texas, 87 percent of the crop had emerged by May 5, slightly ahead of the State's 5-year average of 81 percent. The California crop was reported 20-percent emerged by May 5, well ahead of the State's average of 3 percent.

Total U.S. 2013/14 Rice Supplies Projected at 246.1 Million Cwt

Total supplies for 2013/14 are projected at 246.1 million cwt, a decline of 6 percent from a year earlier and the smallest since 2003/04. By class, long-grain total supplies are projected at 175.9 million cwt, down 6 percent from a year earlier and the second smallest since 2001/02.

At 34.1 million cwt, beginning stocks of all-rice are 17 percent below a year earlier. Long-grain beginning stocks are projected at 20.4 million cwt, a decline of 16 percent from a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain beginning stocks are projected at 11.5 million cwt, down 22 percent from a year earlier.

All-rice imports are forecast at 22.5 million cwt, an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier and second only to the 2007/08 record of 23.9 million cwt. Long-grain imports are projected at a record 20.0 million cwt, an increase of 5 percent from 2012/13. Thailand, India, and Pakistan typically supply the bulk of U.S. long-grain imports. In some years, Vietnam ships rice to the United States, mostly in the form of broken kernels for processed uses. Combined medium- and short-grain imports are projected at 2.5 million cwt, unchanged from a year earlier. Specialty rice from Thailand accounts for most of the U.S. medium- and short-grain rice imported by the United States. Italy supplies most of the remainder.

U.S. 2013/14 Total Use of U.S. Rice Projected To Decline Almost 7 Percent

Total use of U.S. rice in 2013/14 is projected at 213.0 million cwt, down 15.0 million cwt from a year earlier and the second lowest since 1999/2000. Both exports and total domestic and residual use are projected to be smaller in 2013/14.

Total domestic and residual use of all rice in 2013/14 is projected at 115.0 million cwt, down 5.0 million a year earlier and the second smallest since 1998/99.

Total exports in 2013/14 are projected at 98.0 million cwt, down 9 percent from 2012/13.

By type, rough-rice exports are projected at 36.0 million cwt, unchanged from the year-earlier revised forecast. Combined milled- and brown-rice exports (on a rough-basis) are projected at 62.0 million cwt, a drop of 14 percent from a year earlier and the smallest since 2006/07.

U.S. ending stocks of all rice in 2013/14 are projected at 33.1 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from a year earlier. The stocks-to-use ratio is calculated at 15.5 percent, up from 14.9 percent in 2012/13. By class, the 2013/14 U.S. long-grain carryout is projected at 21.9 million cwt, up 1.5 million cwt from a year earlier. The long-grain stocks-to-use ratio is calculated at 14.2 percent, up from 12.2 percent a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain carryout is projected at 9.0 million cwt, down 2.5 million cwt from a year earlier. The medium/short-grain stocks-to-use ratio is calculated at 15.3 percent, down from 18.9 percent in 2012/13.

Little Change Projected in U.S. Rough-Rice Prices in 2013/14

The 2013/14 season-average farm price (SAFP) for U.S. long-grain rice is forecast at \$13.80-\$14.80 per cwt, compared with \$14.20-\$14.60 a year earlier. In 2013/14, the impact of tighter U.S. supplies is expected to be nearly offset by much larger exportable supplies from Asia and South America.

The combined medium- and short-grain 2013/14 U.S. SAFP is forecast at \$15.50-\$16.50 per cwt, with the midpoint unchanged from this year's SAFP of \$15.80- \$16.20.

In late April, NASS reported a mid-April U.S. long-grain rough-rice price of \$15.10 per cwt, up 40 cents from the March estimate and the highest since January 2009. The March price remains estimated at \$14.70 per cwt. For combined medium- and short-grain rice, the mid-April NASS price was reported at \$16.20 per cwt, unchanged from the March revised price. The March price was lowered 60 cents from the midmonth estimate to \$16.20 per cwt. Δ

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