

Higher Yield Boosts U.S. Rice Crop



rice
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The 2012/13 U.S. rice crop is estimated at 199.5 million cwt, up 0.9 million cwt from the previous estimate and 8 percent larger than a year earlier.

The 2012/13 U.S. long-grain crop estimate was raised 4.3 million cwt to 144.2 million cwt, an increase of 24 percent from a year earlier.

In contrast, the combined medium- and short-grain 2012/13 crop estimate was lowered 3.4 million cwt to 55.3 million cwt, 19 percent below a year earlier.

Harvested area estimates for 2012/13 were raised slightly this month for Arkansas and Mississippi, but lowered slightly for California and Louisiana. Harvested area estimates are unchanged for Missouri and Texas. Average yields for 2012/13 were revised up this month for Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas, but lowered for California and Louisiana. Texas' average yield was revised up 220 pounds per acre, while California's average yield was reduced 190 pounds. Remaining yield revisions were smaller. Production forecasts were raised this month for all states except California and Louisiana, with Arkansas accounting for the bulk of the upward revision.

In 2012/13, harvested area was smaller than a year earlier in all reported States except for Arkansas and Missouri.

Harvested area in Texas in 2012/13 dropped 46,000 acres from last year to 134,000 acres, as the State instituted water restrictions due to drought. Mississippi's 2012/13 harvested area was lowered 28,000 acres to 129,000 acres, the lowest since 1977/78. Louisiana's harvested area declined 21,000 acres in 2012/13 to 397,000 acres. In California, harvested area in 2012/13 is estimated at 556,000 acres, down 24,000 acres from last year.

Average Yields Estimated Higher in 2012/13 In All States Except for California

Average yields in 2012/13 were higher than a year earlier in all reported states except for California, with record yields reported for Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas. At 8,370 pounds per acre, Texas' average yield was up 1,180 pounds from last year and the highest yield ever reported for a southern State. Missouri's average yield is estimated at 6,990 pounds per acre, up 500 pounds from a year earlier. Louisiana's average yield of 6,430 pounds per acre is 110 pounds above a year earlier. Mississippi's yield is up 350 pounds per acre from a year earlier to 7,200 pounds.

In contrast, California's 2012/13 average yield declined 240 pounds from a year earlier to 8,110 pounds.

Production in 2012/13 declined in all reported states except for Arkansas and Missouri.

In contrast, Mississippi's rice production in 2012/13 dropped 14 percent from a year earlier to 9.3 million cwt, a result of smaller area. Despite a record yield, production in Texas declined 13 percent to 11.2 million cwt due to a substantial decline in area. Louisiana's 2012/13 production dropped more than 3 percent to 25.5 million cwt as smaller plantings more than offset a record yield. In California,

production dropped 7 percent in 2012/13 to 45.1 million cwt, a result of both smaller area and a weaker yield.

Total U.S. Rice Supplies in 2012/13 Projected to be Up 3 Percent

Total supplies for 2012/13 are forecast at 261.1 million cwt, up 0.9 million cwt from last month's forecast and more than 3 percent larger than a year earlier. A larger crop and increased imports are projected to more than offset a much smaller carryin. By class, long-grain supplies are projected at 186.4 million cwt, up 4.3 million cwt from last month's forecast and 10 percent larger than a year earlier. In contrast, medium- and short-grain supplies are forecast at 72.5 million cwt, down 3.4 million cwt from last month's forecast and 11 percent below a year earlier.

The 2012/13 all rice carryin remains estimated at 41.1 million cwt, 15 percent below a year earlier. The long-grain 2012/13 carryin remains estimated at 24.3 million cwt, 32 percent below a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain carryin remains estimated at 14.7 million cwt, up 45 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of broken, included in the all-rice stocks estimate, are not classified by class.

Total rice imports for 2012/13 remain projected at 20.5 million cwt, 6 percent above a year earlier and the largest imports since 2007/08.

U.S. 2012/13 Export Forecast Raised 1.0 Million Cwt to 106.0 Million Cwt

Total use of U.S. rice in 2012/13 is projected at 231.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from last month's forecasts and 9 percent above a year earlier.

Total domestic and residual use of all-rice in 2012/13 remains projected at 125.0 million cwt, 13.5 percent higher than a year earlier.

Total exports of U.S. rice in 2012/13 are projected at 106.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and more than 4 percent above a year earlier.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports remain projected at 34.0 million cwt, 4 percent larger than a year earlier.

By class, long-grain exports are projected at 75.0 million cwt, 1.0 million cwt above last month's forecast and 12 percent above a year earlier.

U.S. ending stocks of all-rice in 2012/13 are projected at 30.1 million cwt, down slightly from last month's forecast and 27 percent below a year earlier.

Based on information from the Rice Stocks report, U.S. rice stocks on December 1, 2012, are estimated at 157.4 million cwt (combined stocks of rough-rice and milled-rice on a rough-rice basis), up 1 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. 2012/13 Medium- and Short-Grain Season-Average Price Forecast Lowered

The 2012/13 season-average farm price (SAFP) for U.S. long-grain rice remains forecast at \$13.70-\$14.70 per cwt, unchanged from last month, but up from \$13.40 per cwt a year earlier.

The combined medium- and short-grain 2012/13 U.S. SAFP is forecast at \$16.00-\$17.00 per cwt, down from \$16.50-\$17.50 last month, with the midpoint matching the \$16.50 per cwt a year earlier.

In late December, NASS reported a mid-December U.S. long-grain rough-rice price of \$14.20 per cwt, up 20 cents from the revised November estimate. The November price was lowered 20 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$14.00. Δ

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