

Louisiana Yield Estimates Rise, All Others Lowered



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The 2011/12 U.S. rice production forecast was lowered almost 4.0 million cwt this month to 186.9 million cwt. The crop is down 23 percent from the year earlier-record and is the smallest U.S. rice crop since 1998/99.

By class, the long-grain production estimate was lowered 2.5 million cwt to 116.8 million, down 36 percent from a year earlier and the smallest since 1996/97.

Yield estimates were lowered this month for every reported State except Louisiana and Missouri, which were unchanged from last month. The Texas 2011/12 yield was lowered 500 pounds per acre. Average yield estimates for California and Mississippi were each lowered 100 pounds per acre. Arkansas's yield was reduced 200 pounds per acre. The Delta rice growing area experienced severe flooding early in the season followed by a second consecutive extremely hot summer.

Arkansas accounts for more than half of the almost 4.0 million cwt reduction in the 2011/12 crop projection. The Texas crop projection was reduced 7 percent. Production forecasts for California and Mississippi were each reduced 1 percent this month.

On an annual basis, rice plantings declined in 2011/12 in all reporting States except California. In Arkansas, total rice plantings dropped 33 percent to 1.2 million acres, the smallest since 1989/90.

Yields are projected higher in 2011/12 than a year earlier in all reported States except Texas. At 6,800 pounds per acre, the Arkansas average field yield is up 5 percent from a year earlier. In Louisiana, the average field yield remains estimated at a record 6,400 pounds per acre, also up 5 percent from a year earlier. Mississippi's average yield is estimated at 7,100 pounds per acre, up almost 4 percent from a year earlier. The average field yield in Missouri remains estimated at 7,200 pounds per acre, an increase of 11 percent from 2010/11. The Texas field yield is estimated at 7,000 pounds per acre, down 2 percent from last year. Finally, in California, field yields are projected at 8,300 pounds per acre, almost 4 percent above a year earlier.

Production declined in 2011/12 in all reported States except California.

Pace of 2011/12 California Harvest Remains Behind the 5-Year Average

For the week ending October 9, 74 percent of the U.S. 2011/12 crop had been harvested, behind 84 percent last year and behind the U.S. 5-year average of 80 percent.

U.S. 2011/12 Total Rice Supplies Are Forecast To Decline Almost 15 Percent

The total U.S. rice supply for 2011/12 is forecast at 254.4 million cwt, down 3.9 million cwt from last month's forecast and 15 percent below the year earlier record. Total supplies are the smallest since 2008/09.

Beginning stocks of all-rice are calculated at

48.5 million cwt, virtually unchanged from last month, but 33 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest since 1987/88. The 2011/12 long-grain carryin remains calculated at 35.6 million cwt, 55 percent larger than a year earlier. In contrast, the medium/short-grain carryin is calculated at 10.1 million cwt, 16 percent below a year earlier.

Total U.S. rice imports for 2011/12 remains forecast at 19.0 million cwt, almost 4 percent above a year earlier. Long-grain imports remains projected at 16.5 million cwt, 4 percent higher than the year-earlier estimate. U.S. medium/short-grain imports remain projected at 2.5 million cwt, virtually unchanged from 2010/11. Specialty rice from Thailand, classified by the U.S. Census Bureau as medium- and short-grain rice, accounts for the bulk of current U.S. medium- and short-grain imports. Arborio rice from Italy accounts for most of the remainder.

U.S. 2011/12 Export Forecast Lowered 2.0 Million Cwt to 91.0 Million Cwt

Total use of U.S. rice in 2011/12 is projected at 218.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 13 percent below the year-earlier record. Exports account for all of this month's downward revision in the all-rice total use projection.

Total domestic and residual use of all-rice remains projected at 127.0 million cwt for 2011/12, almost 8 percent smaller than the year-earlier record.

Total exports of U.S. rice in 2011/12 are projected at 91.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and more than 18 percent below 2010/11.

By type, U.S. rough-rice exports remain projected at 34.0 million cwt, almost 3 percent below the year-earlier estimate.

Combined medium- and short-grain exports are projected at 31.0 million cwt, also down 1.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 8 percent below a year earlier.

U.S. 2011/12 Ending Stocks Forecast Lowered to 36.4 Million Cwt

U.S. ending stocks of all-rice in 2011/12 are projected at 36.4 million cwt, 1.9 million cwt below last month's forecast and 25 percent below a year earlier.

The medium/short-grain carryout is projected at 16.8 million cwt, down almost 3 percent from last month's forecast, but 65 percent larger than a year earlier.

U.S. 2011/12 Season-Average Price for Medium- and Short-grain Raised

The 2011/12 season-average farm price (SAFP) for U.S. long-grain rice is projected at \$13.50-\$14.50 per cwt, unchanged from last month. The 2011/12 SAFP for long-grain rice is well above the \$11.10 estimated for 2010/11.

The combined medium- and short-grain 2011/12 U.S. SAFP is projected at \$15.50-\$16.50 per cwt, up 50 cents on both the high and low ends from last month's forecast. The mid-point of the 2011/12 SAFP is \$2.40 below the 2010/11 SAFP of \$18.40 per cwt.

In late September, NASS reported a mid-September long-grain rough-rice price of \$12.70 per cwt, up 30 cents from a revised \$12.40 in August. The August price was raised 70 cents from the mid-month estimate. For combined medium- and short-grain rice, the mid-September NASS price was reported at \$18.80 per cwt, up 20 cents from the revised August price. The August medium- and short-grain rough-rice cash price was lowered 70 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$18.60 per cwt. △



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