

Lower Yield Forecast Spurs Drop In U.S. Rice Forecast



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The 2012/13 U.S. rice crop is forecast at 190.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from last month's forecast, but still nearly 3 percent larger than a year earlier. Planted area remains estimated at 2.66 million acres, 1 percent below a year earlier and the smallest area since 1986/87.

Long-grain rice production is projected at 132.1 million cwt, down 1.4 million cwt from last month's forecast, but more than 13 percent larger than a year earlier. Combined medium- and short-grain production is projected at 57.9 million cwt, up 0.4 million cwt from last month's forecast, but still nearly 16 percent below the near-record a year earlier.

Harvested area is estimated lower in all reported States in 2012/13 except Arkansas and Missouri.

Average field yields are estimated higher in all reported States except Mississippi, with yields record high in Texas and Louisiana. In Missouri, the average yield is estimated at 6,700 pounds per acre, also up 3 percent from last year. Mississippi's average yield of 6,700 pounds per acre is 2 percent below a year earlier. Louisiana's average field yield is estimated at a record 6,400 pounds per acre, up 1 percent from a year earlier. The average Texas field yield of 7,900 pounds is up 10 percent from a year earlier and the highest ever reported for a southern State. In California, average field yields are estimated at 8,400 pounds per acre, up fractionally from a year earlier, but still 200 pounds below the 2009/10 record.

Arkansas and Missouri account for all of the expected increase in U.S. rice production in 2012/13.

In contrast, Louisiana's rice crop of 46.6 million cwt is 4 percent below last year, a result of smaller plantings. At 8.9 million cwt, the Texas 2012/13 rice crop is 31 percent below a year earlier and the smallest since 1946/47. Mississippi's production of 8.9 million cwt is 18 percent below a year earlier, mostly due to smaller plantings. California's production is projected to decline nearly 4 percent from last year to 46.6 million cwt due to smaller plantings.

Harvest Pace Is Well Ahead of Normal

On the Gulf Coast

Progress of the 2012/13 U.S. crop remains well ahead of normal in California and in the South. By August 5, 76 percent of the U.S. rice crop had headed, up from 53 percent a year earlier and the U.S. 5-year average of 57 percent. In Arkansas, 91 percent of the crop had headed by August 5, about 36 percentage points ahead of both last year and the State's 5-year average. Missouri's crop was reported 64 percent headed by August 5, compared with a 5-year average of 41 percent. In Mississippi, 87 percent of the crop was reported headed by August 5, up 10 percentage points from its 5-year average.

In Louisiana, 97 percent of the crop was reported headed by August 5, up 6-7 percentage points from last year and the State's 5-year average of 48 percent. With 91 percent of the crop headed by August 5, Texas crop progress was

slightly behind last year, but nearly even with the State's 5-year average. In California, 35 percent of the crop had headed by August 5, well ahead of both 10 percent last year and the State's 5-year average of 22 percent.

Total Supply Forecast for 2012/13 Lowered 2.5 Million Cwt to 244.4 Million Cwt

The total supply forecast for 2012/13 was lowered 2.5 million cwt to 244.4 million cwt, with estimates for carryin, production, and imports all revised down this month. Total supply is almost 4 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 2003/04.

The 2012/13 all rice carryin forecast was lowered 1.0 million cwt to 33.5 million cwt, 31 percent below a year earlier.

Total all rice imports for 2012/13 are projected at 21.0 million cwt, down 0.5 million from last month's forecast, but still up 5 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. 2012/13 Domestic and Residual Use Forecast Lowered 2.0 Million Cwt to 124.0 Million Cwt

Total use of U.S. rice in 2012/13 is projected at 216.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 2 percent below a year earlier.

Total domestic and residual use of all-rice in 2012/13 is projected at 124.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from last month's forecast, but 5 percent higher than a year earlier. For long-grain, 2012/13 domestic and residual use is projected at 92.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from last month's forecast, but 8 percent larger than a year earlier. Medium- and short-grain domestic and residual use remains projected at 32.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million cwt from a year earlier.

Total exports of U.S. rice in 2012/13 remain projected at 92.0 million cwt, 10 percent below the year-earlier revised level.

By class, long-grain exports remain projected at 60.0 million cwt, more than 10 percent below the year-earlier revised level.

U.S. ending stocks of all-rice in 2012/13 are projected at 28.4 million cwt, down 0.5 million cwt from last month's forecast and 15 percent below a year earlier. The stocks-to-use ratio is calculated at 13.2 percent, down from 15.2 percent in 2011/12.

There were no supply side revisions to the 2011/12 balance sheet this month. On the use side, the 2011/12 total export forecast was raised 1.0 million cwt to 102.0 million based on Census shipment data through June and shipment data from the U.S. Export Sales report through July. Long-grain milled rice accounted for all of the upward revision in exports. The higher export forecast lowered 2011/12 total ending stocks 1.0 million cwt to 33.5 million, with long-grain accounting for all of the reduction in the ending stocks estimate.

U.S. 2012/13 Season-Average Price Forecast Raised for Long-Grain Rice

The 2012/13 season-average farm price (SAFP) for U.S. long-grain rice was raised 50 cents per cwt on both the high and low ends this month to \$13.50-\$14.50 per cwt, compared with \$13.40 per cwt a year earlier. The combined medium- and short-grain 2012/13 U.S. SAFP remains forecast at \$15.50-\$16.50 per cwt, compared with \$15.70 a year earlier.

In late July, NASS reported a mid-July U.S. long-grain rough-rice price of \$13.70 per cwt, up 30 cents from the revised June estimate. The June price was raised 10 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$13.40. Δ