

Rice Plantings Estimated Higher In All States But Texas



ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

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The 2009/10 U.S. rough-rice crop is forecast at 218.6 million cwt, up almost 4 percent from last month's forecast and more than 7 percent larger than last year. This month's upward revision is primarily due to a higher area estimate. At almost 3.13 million acres, rice plantings are up 107,000 acres from the June survey and more than 4 percent larger than last year. The average field yield is projected at 7,051 pounds per acre, up 12 pounds from last month's forecast and 205 pounds above the 2008/09 average field.

By class, the long-grain production forecast was raised almost 2 percent to 152.8 million cwt, virtually unchanged from a year earlier.

Area estimates were raised this month for Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas. Estimated plantings were raised 55,000 acres from the June survey for both Arkansas and Louisiana. Missouri's 2009/10 area estimate was raised 6,000 acres and the Texas estimate was raised 1,000 acres. In contrast, the planting estimate for California was lowered 10,000 acres. The Mississippi area estimate was unchanged. Average yield forecasts were raised this month for Texas and California and lowered for Mississippi. The Texas yield was raised 400 pounds per acre.

On an annual basis, plantings are estimated higher in all reported States except Texas.

Average field yields are projected to be higher than last year in all reported States except California, with record yields projected for Texas and Louisiana.

Rice Crops Projected Larger this Year In All Reported States

Rice production in 2009/10 is projected to be larger than last year in all reported States, with Arkansas, California, and Louisiana accounting for most of the projected increase. At 101.0 million cwt, the Arkansas rice crop is 9 percent larger than a year earlier, a result of both expanded plantings and a higher yield. California's production is projected at 45.6 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year and second only to the 2004/05 record harvest. Louisiana's crop is projected at 29.6 million cwt, an increase of 9.5 percent from last year, a result of both a record yield and expanded plantings. Rice production in Texas is projected to increase 3 percent to 12.2 million cwt, a result of a record yield. Mississippi's rice production is projected to increase 6 percent to 16.7 million cwt, a result of stronger yield and slightly larger plantings. Finally, Missouri's production is projected at 13.5 million cwt, up 3 percent from last year as a stronger yield more than offset smaller plantings. Harvest is well underway on the Gulf Coast and in the lower Delta and has recently begun in the upper Delta and in California. In the South, the harvest pace is about normal on the Gulf Coast, but behind normal in much of the Delta. In Texas, 87 percent of the crop was harvested by September 6, virtually even with the State's 5-year average. About 76 percent of Louisiana's crop was harvested by September 6, also unchanged from the State's 5-year average. In Arkansas, 11 percent of the crop was harvested by September 6, about 4 percentage points behind the State's 5-year average. In Mississippi, 18 percent of the crop was harvested by September 6, behind the State's 5-year average of 21 percent. About 10 percent of

Missouri's crop was reported harvested by September 6, up 3 percentage points from the State's 5-year average. Nearly all of the Delta rice-growing areas experienced delayed plantings this year due to excessive May rainfall.

U.S. 2009/10 Total Rice Supply Forecast Raised 6 Percent to 270.1 Million Cwt

Total U.S. supplies of rice in 2009/10 are projected at 270.1 million cwt, up 15.2 million from last month's forecast and 7 percent larger than a year ago. At 30.4 million cwt, the 2009/10 carryin is 34 percent larger than last month's forecast and more than 3 percent above a year earlier.

Imports remain projected at 21.0 million cwt, up 9 percent from 2008/09 and the second highest on record.

Medium/short-grain imports are forecast at 3.5 million cwt, up 0.5 million cwt from last month's forecast and 4 percent larger than last year.

U.S. 2009/10 U.S. Export Forecast Lowered 3.0 Million Cwt to 96.0 Million Cwt

Total use of U.S. rice in 2009/10 is projected at 225.5 million cwt, down 5.5 million cwt from last month's forecast, but still up almost 2 percent from last year.

The 2009/10 rough-rice export forecast was lowered 2.0 million cwt to 33.0 million, up 4 percent from last year.

By class, the long-grain exports are forecast at 67.0 million cwt, down 4.0 million from last month, but up 6 percent from 2008/09.

Combined medium/short-grain exports are forecast at 29.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million from last month and almost 2 percent above the 2008/09 revised record.

Total domestic and residual use was lowered 2.5 million cwt to 129.5 million, largely based on a revised estimate for 2008/09.

U.S. 2009/10 Ending Stocks Forecast Raised to 44.6 Million Cwt

U.S. ending stocks for 2009/10 are projected at 44.6 million cwt, up 87 percent from last month's forecast and almost 47 percent above a year earlier.

There were several revisions this month to the 2008/09 supply and use balance sheet. On the supply side, total imports were raised 1 percent to 19.23 million cwt based on August 2008 to July 2009 Census data.

On the use side, total exports were lowered 3 percent to 94.13 million cwt based on slower-than-expected shipment data.

The ending stocks estimate for 2008/09 was lowered 34 percent to 30.45 million cwt based on data from the August 2009 Rice Stocks report. Long-grain ending stocks were raised more than 19 percent to 20.05 million cwt. Medium/short-grain ending stocks were raised 76 percent to 8.0 million.

U.S. 2009/10 Medium/Short-Grain Season-Average Farm Price Lowered to \$16.25-\$17.25 per Cwt

The 2009/10 season-average farm price (SAFP) remains projected at \$13.65-\$14.65 per cwt, down from the year-earlier revised estimate of \$16.80 per cwt.

This month, the 2008/09 long-grain SAFP was raised 10 cents, while the 2008/09 medium/short-grain SAFP was raised \$2.40 per cwt.

Last month, USDA reported a mid-August all-rice rough-rice cash price of \$13.60 per cwt and raised the July price 20 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$14.30, the lowest since March 2008. The July long-grain price was lowered 10 cents from the mid-month estimate. For medium/short-grain rice, the mid-August price was reported at \$24.40 per cwt, down \$1.50 from the revised July price. The July medium/short-grain price was raised \$0.90 from the mid-month estimate. Δ

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