

Some States Report Record Rice Yields This Year

rice outlook

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

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The 2009/10 U.S. rough-rice crop is forecast at 220.6 million cwt, up 1 percent from last month's forecast and more than 8 percent larger than last year.

By class, the long-grain production forecast was raised almost 1 percent to 154.2 million cwt, fractionally above a year earlier.

Yields were raised this month in all reported States except Arkansas and Mississippi, with several States reporting record yields.

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, with record yields projected for Texas, Missouri, and Louisiana. The average field yield in Texas is up 9 percent from a year earlier. The Missouri yield is almost 6 percent higher than a year earlier. In Louisiana, yields are forecast to be up nearly 10 percent from 2008/09. California growers indicated yield increases of more than 2 percent from last year. Despite delayed plantings and excessive rains, Arkansas yields are projected to be almost 3 percent higher than last year. In contrast, average yields in Mississippi are projected to be almost 1 percent below last year.

**Rice Crops Projected Larger in 2009/10 in All Reported States;
Total U.S. Supplies Up 8 Percent from Last Year**

Rice production in 2009/10 is projected to be larger than last year in all reported States, with Arkansas, California, and Louisiana accounting for the bulk of the increase. At 101.0 million cwt, the Arkansas rice crop is almost 9 percent larger than a year earlier, a result of both expanded plantings and a higher yield. California's production is projected at 46.7 million cwt, up more than 8 percent from last year and second only to the 2004/05 record harvest. The bumper crop is the result of expanded area and a record yield. Louisiana's crop is projected at 30.1 million cwt, an increase of more than 11 percent from last year, a result of both a record yield and expanded plantings.

Despite smaller plantings, rice production in Texas is projected to increase more than 7 percent to 12.8 million cwt, a result of a record yield. Mississippi's rice production is projected to increase 3 percent to 16.2 million cwt, a result of larger plantings. Finally, Missouri's production is projected at 13.9 million cwt, up almost 6 percent from last year due to a stronger yield.

Harvest is nearly complete on the Gulf Coast and well underway in the lower Delta and in California. However, harvest is well behind normal in the upper Delta due to excessive rainfall. For the U.S. as a whole, 62 percent of the crop was reported harvested by October 4, slightly behind last year and well behind the U.S. 5-year average of 78 percent. In Texas, harvest of the main crop was nearly complete by October 4, virtually the same as last year and the Texas 5-year average. Harvest of the main crop in Louisiana was reported 94 percent complete by October 4, even with last year, but slightly behind the State's 5-year average. Many producers in Texas and Southwest Louisiana are able to harvest a partial second crop – referred to as a ratoon crop – from the stubble of the first crop harvest. No additional planting is required.

In California, 65 percent of the crop was reported harvested by October 4, about 13 percentage ahead of the State's 5-year average. In contrast, harvest is well behind normal in the Delta States. In Arkansas, 53 percent of the crop was harvested by October 4, sharply behind the State's 5-year average of 79 percent. Harvest in Mississippi was reported just 42 percent complete by October 4, only about half the 5-year average of 87 percent. In Missouri, only 41 percent of the crop was harvested by October 4, well behind the 5-year average of 71 percent. In addition to delayed plantings last spring, the upper Delta received excessive rain fall in September and October that has hindered harvest.

Total U.S. supplies of rice in 2009/10 are projected at 272.1 million cwt, up 2.0 million from last month's forecast and 8 percent larger than a year ago. Supplies are the largest since 2005/06. At 30.4 million cwt, the 2009/10 all-rice carryin is more than 3 percent above a year earlier. The medium/short-grain carryin of 8.0 million cwt is 12 percent below a year earlier. Long-grain carryin of 20.1 million cwt is more than 5 percent larger than last year.

Imports remain projected at 21.0 million cwt, up 9 percent from 2008/09 and the second highest on record. Long-grain imports remain forecast at a near-record 17.5 million cwt, up 10 percent from a year earlier.

**U.S. Rice Exports Projected To Expand 3 Percent in 2009/10;
Ending Stocks Expected Highest Since 1986/87**

Total use of U.S. rice in 2009/10 remains projected at 225.5 million cwt, up almost 2 percent from last year. Both exports and domestic disappearance are projected to be higher than last year. U.S. exports are projected at 96.0 million cwt, almost 3 percent above last year, but more than 8 percent below 2007/08.

The 2009/10 rough-rice export forecast remains at 33.0 million, up 6 percent from last year. Mexico and Central America are the largest buyers of U.S. rough-rice, nearly all long-grain.

By class, the long-grain exports are forecast at 68.0 million cwt, up 1.0 million from last month and almost 5 percent above 2008/09. Latin America, the Middle East, Europe, Canada, and Sub-Saharan Africa are the top markets for U.S. long-grain rice.

Combined medium/short-grain U.S. exports are forecast at 28.0 million cwt, down 1.0 million from last month and almost 2 percent below the 2008/09 record. Northeast Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean, and Oceania are the largest markets for U.S. medium/short-grain rice.

Total domestic and residual use remains projected at 129.5 million, about 1 percent larger than a year earlier and the highest on record.

U.S. ending stocks for 2009/10 are projected at 46.6 million cwt, up 2.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 53 percent above a year earlier. These are the highest ending stocks since 1986/87. The stocks-to-use ratio, calculated at 20.7 percent, is 7 percentage points above a year earlier and the highest since 1992/93.

**U.S. 2009/10 Season-Average Farm Price Forecast
Lowered to \$13.00-\$14.00 per Cwt**

The 2009/10 season-average farm price (SAFP) is projected at \$13.00-\$14.00 per cwt, down 65 cents on both ends from last month's forecast and below the 2008/09 record of \$16.80. The long-grain 2009/10 SAFP is projected at \$11.75-\$12.75 per cwt, down \$1.15 on both ends from last month and below the record \$15.00 last year. The downward revision was based on larger U.S. supplies and expectations of weaker global trading prices latter in the market year as more supplies become available. Thailand's main harvest typically begins in late October or early



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