

South Accounts For Most Medium/Short Grain Planting Expansions



The March 2011 Prospective Plantings report indicated total U.S. rice plantings in 2011/12 at 3.02 million acres, down 17 percent from a year earlier. Long-grain accounts for all of the indicated decline in U.S. rice acreage in 2011/2012.

In contrast, combined 2011/12 medium/short-grain plantings are indicated at 853,000 acres, up more than 7 percent from last year and the largest since 2000/01. Reported cash prices for U.S. medium- and short-grain rough-rice are above levels reported in August and remain well above current prices for long-grain rough-rice.

Growers indicated reduced plantings of rice in all reported States except California, where growers indicated a slight expansion. Arkansas, the largest rice growing State, accounts for more than 60 percent of the intended U.S. rice area reduction. Growers in Mississippi indicated 2011/12 rice plantings at 200,000 acres, more than 34 percent below last year and the smallest since 2007/08. Mississippi produces only long-grain rice. In Missouri, growers indicated 2011/12 plantings at 202,000 acres, a 20-percent decline from 2010/11, with long-grain accounting for all of the reduction. Rice plantings in Louisiana are indicated at 470,000 acres, more than 13 percent below 2010/11.

Long-grain accounts for all of the indicated area decline in Louisiana rice area; medium-grain plantings in Louisiana were indicated to be up 25 percent. Texas growers indicated a 10-percent reduction – all long-grain – in rice plantings in 2011/12 to 170,000 acres, the smallest since 2007/08.

Finally, growers in California indicated 3-percent area expansion to 575,000 acres, the third highest on record.

As of April 3, about 16 percent of the U.S. 2011/12 rice crop was reported planted, up 3 percentage points from both last year and the U.S. 5-year average. The pace of plantings has been especially rapid in the two Gulf Coast States. The Texas crop was reported 67 percent planted by April 3, well ahead of just 33 percent a year earlier and the Texas 5-year average of 48 percent. By April 3, Louisiana growers reported that 57 percent of their crop was planted, 9 percentage points ahead of a year earlier and 15 percentage points ahead of the State's 5-year average.

March 1, 2011 U.S. Rice Stocks Are Estimated To Be Up 17 Percent from a Year Earlier

Data from the March Rice Stocks report indicates U.S. rice stocks (converted to a rough-equivalent basis) on March 1, 2011 were nearly 130.0 million cwt, up 17 percent from a year earlier and above industry expectations. These are the largest March 1 U.S. rice stocks on record.

2010/11 U.S. Total Rice Supplies Are Projected To Be the Highest on Record

There were no supply side revisions this month. Total U.S. rice supplies in 2010/11 remain projected at 297.8 million cwt, almost 11 percent larger than a year earlier and the highest on record.

Beginning stocks of all rice remain estimated at 36.7 million cwt, 20 percent larger than a year earlier. The 2010/11 long-grain carryin remains estimated at 23.2 million cwt, up 15 percent from a year earlier.

Total U.S. rice imports for 2010/11 remain forecast at 18.0 million cwt, 5 percent below a year earlier and the third consecutive year of a decline.

In 2010/11, the U.S. harvested 243.1 million cwt of rice, almost 11 percent more than a year earlier and the largest U.S. crop on record. Long-grain accounts for all of the U.S. production increase in 2010/11.

U.S. 2010/11 Total Domestic Disappearance Forecast Is Lowered 2.0 Million Cwt to 127.0 Million Cwt

Total use of U.S. rice in 2010/11 is projected at 243.0 million cwt, down 2.0 million cwt from last month's forecast, but still more than 4 percent above a year earlier and the highest on record.

Total domestic and residual use of all-rice is projected at a record 127.0 million cwt for 2010/11, down 2.0 million cwt from last month's forecast, but almost 4 percent above a year earlier.

Combined medium- and short-grain domestic disappearance remains projected at 28.0 million cwt, 12 percent below 2009/10.

Total exports of U.S. rice in 2010/11 remain projected at 116.0 million cwt, 5 percent larger than a year earlier and the highest since 2005/06.

U.S. milled rice exports (combined milled and brown rice exports on a rough basis) are projected at 77.0 million cwt, up 3.0 million cwt from last month's forecast and 11 percent above a year earlier.

Through March 31, combined U.S. commercial sales and shipments to Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Senegal were well ahead of a year earlier.

Libya accounts for most of the year-to-year increase in U.S. medium/short-grain exports.

U.S. 2010/11 Long-Grain Ending Stocks Are Projected To Be the Highest since 1985/86

U.S. ending stocks of all-rice in 2010/11 are projected at 54.8 million cwt, up 2.0 million from last month's forecast and 49 percent above a year earlier.

U.S. Medium/Short-Grain Season-Average Farm Price Is Raised to \$16.75-\$17.25 per Cwt

The 2010/11 season-average farm price (SAFP) for U.S. long-grain rice remains projected at \$11.05-\$11.55 per cwt, down from \$12.90 per cwt reported for last year. The projected decline in U.S. long-grain prices in 2010/11 is primarily based on record U.S. supplies and quality concerns regarding much of the rice harvested in the U.S. Delta in 2010/11. Almost all U.S. long-grain rice is grown in the South.

The combined medium- and short-grain 2010/11 U.S. SAFP is projected at \$16.75-\$17.25 per cwt, up

50 cents on both the high and low end from last month's forecast range.

Last month, NASS reported a mid-March 2011 cash price for long-grain rice of \$12.30 per cwt, up 30 cents from the revised February price and the highest since May 2010. For medium/short-grain rice, the mid-March NASS price was reported at \$20.30 per cwt, up \$2.60 per cwt from the revised February price and the highest since September 2009. The February medium/short-grain rough-rice cash price was raised 60 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$17.70 per cwt.

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