

U.S. Rice Acreage Drops 3 Percent



The March 2013 Prospective Plantings report indicated total U.S. rice plantings in 2013/14 of 2.61 million acres, down 3 percent from a year earlier and the smallest since 1987/88.

By class, long-grain plantings were indicated at 1.93 million acres, a 3-percent decrease from a year earlier. Almost all long-grain rice is grown in the South. Medium- and short-grain plantings were indicated at 678,000 acres, a decline of 4 percent from a year earlier.

Rice acreage for 2013/14 is indicated lower in all reported States except the Gulf Coast States Louisiana and Texas. Growers in Arkansas indicated 2013/14 rice plantings of 1.23 million acres, a 5-percent decline from a year earlier and the smallest since 1989/90.

Indicated U.S. plantings are based on a survey of growers that was conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in early March. Actual plantings may differ from reported intentions. The first survey of actual plantings of the 2013/14 crop will be conducted in early June and reported in the Acreage report to be released on June 28, 2013.

Planting of 2013/14 U.S. Rice Crop Well Behind Normal Pace in the Delta

For the week ending April 7, just 17 percent of the U.S. rice crop was reported planted, well behind 35 percent a year earlier and the U.S. 5-year average of 20 percent. Planting was slower than normal in the Delta, but well ahead on the Gulf Coast. In Arkansas, just 4 percent of the crop was reported planted by April 7, down from a record high of 45 percent last year and a 5-year average of 16 percent. Mississippi's 2013/14 rice crop was just 1-percent planted by April 7, well behind 33 percent last year and the State's 5-year average of 12 percent. In Missouri, 2 percent of the 2013/14 rice crop was reported planted by April 7, well behind last year's record 42 percent and the State's average of 10 percent.

In contrast, the pace of planting the 2013/14 crop was well ahead of normal in the Gulf Coast rice-growing States. For the week ending April 7, the Louisiana 2013/14 rice crop was reported 75 percent planted, well ahead of 49 percent last year and the State's 5-year average of 53 percent. In Texas, 76 percent of the 2013/14 rice crop was reported planted by April 7, well ahead of 31 percent last year and the State's 5-year average of 57 percent. Planting of the 2013/14 California rice crop has just started, a pace typical for the State.

By April 7, 9 percent of the U.S. 2013/14 rice crop had emerged, nearly unchanged from a year earlier, but ahead of the U.S. average of 5 percent. Like planting, emergence was well ahead of normal on the Gulf Coast, but it was behind in the Delta.

Total U.S. 2012/13 Rice Supplies Projected at 262.1 Million Cwt

There were no supply side revisions this month to the 2012/13 U.S. rice balance sheet. Imports remain projected at 21.5 million cwt (rough-equivalent basis), up 11 percent from a year earlier and the second highest imports on

record.

The U.S. crop remains estimated at 199.5 million cwt, 8 percent larger than a year earlier, a result of both expanded area and a record yield. The 2012/13 long-grain crop remains estimated at 144.2 million cwt, an increase of 23 percent from a year earlier, a result of both expanded area and a record yield.

The 2012/13 all rice carryin remains estimated at 41.1 million cwt, 15 percent below a year earlier. The long-grain 2012/13 carryin remains estimated at 24.3 million cwt, 32 percent below a year earlier. The medium- and short-grain carryin remains estimated at 14.7 million cwt, up 45 percent from a year earlier.

Total supplies for 2012/13 are forecast at 262.1 million cwt, almost 4 percent larger than a year earlier.

In addition, the 2012/13 milling rate was lowered 0.25 percent to 70.00 percent based on reported milling data through January.

Based on data reported in the National Agricultural Statistics Service's March Rice Stocks, U.S. rice stocks on March 1, 2013, are estimated at 113.8 million cwt, up almost 1 percent from a year earlier. Long-grain stocks on March 1 are estimated at 72.0 million cwt, up 1.2 percent from a year earlier. In contrast, combined medium- and short-grain stocks are estimated at 36.15 million cwt, down more than 8 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. 2012/13 Domestic and Residual Use Forecast Lowered to 120.0 Million Cwt

Total use of U.S. rice in 2012/13 is projected at 228.0 million cwt, down 5.0 million cwt from last month's forecast but still 8 percent above a year earlier.

Total domestic and residual use of all rice in 2012/13 is projected at 120.0 million cwt, down 5.0 million from last month's forecast but still 9 percent higher than a year earlier.

For long-grain, 2012/13 domestic and residual use is projected at 90.0 million cwt, down 4 million cwt from last month's forecast but almost 16 percent larger than a year earlier.

Total exports of U.S. all rice in 2012/13 remain projected at 108.0 million cwt, 6 percent above a year earlier.

U.S. milled rice exports (combined milled- and brown-rice exports converted to a rough-rice basis) remain projected at 73.0 million cwt, 6 percent above a year earlier.

By class, long-grain exports remain projected at 77.0 million cwt, 15 percent above a year earlier.

U.S. ending stocks of all rice in 2012/13 are projected at 34.1 million cwt, up 5.0 million cwt from last month's forecast but 17 percent below a year earlier.

U.S. Long-Grain Season-Average Price Projected To Be Higher in 2012/13

The 2012/13 season-average farm price (SAFP) for U.S. long-grain rice remains forecast at \$14.20-\$14.80 per cwt, with the mid-point well above the 2011/12 SAFP of \$13.40 per cwt.

The combined medium- and short-grain 2012/13 U.S. SAFP remains forecast at \$15.60-\$16.20 per cwt, with the mid-point well below the 2011/12 SAFP of \$17.10.

In late March, NASS reported a mid-March U.S. long-grain rough-rice price of \$14.70 per cwt, up 10 cents from the revised February estimate and the highest since January 2009. The February price was lowered 50 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$14.60. For combined medium- and short-grain rice, the mid-March NASS price was reported at \$16.80 per cwt, up \$1.00 from the February revised price. The February price was lowered 20 cents from the mid-month estimate to \$15.80 per cwt. Δ