



ALABAMA FARM FACTS



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This issue contains:

- Prospective Plantings
- U. S. Hogs and Pigs

March 1, 2003 Planting Intentions Report

Based on a recent survey by the Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service in Montgomery, row crop producers intend to plant 220,000 acres of **corn** this year, up 20,000 acres (10%) from 2002, while acreages intended for cotton, peanuts and soybeans are expected to decrease. **Cotton** planting intentions are estimated at 580,000 acres, 10,000 acres (2%) less than last year, but 10,000 acres above the 5-year average. Grower's interest in **soybeans** continues to wane, with acreage intentions for the 2003 crop-year at 150,000 acres, compared with 170,000 acres last year and the 5-year average of 216,000 acres. Soybean growers indicated that around 70 percent of this year's acreage will be planted with genetically modified seed varieties. Growers expect to plant 180,000 acres of **peanuts**, the **lowest acreage since 1982** when 179,000 acres were planted. This 2003 estimate is 10,000 acres (5%) below 2002 and 17,000 acres (9%) less than the 5-year average. Acreage seeded to **wheat** is estimated at 120,000, 20 percent below 2002 acreage and 17 percent less than the 5-year average. Acreage expected to be cut for **hay** this year is up 3 percent to 820,000 acres compared with 800,000 acres last year. **Sorghum**, expected to be 12,000 planted acres, will increase 20 percent from 10,000 acres in 2002. **Sweet potato** planting intentions are the same as last year at 2,900 acres. Recent rainy weather brought much needed soil moisture, but delayed land preparation and early spring planting in many parts of the state. State Statistician, Herb Vanderberry says, "Actual plantings for the 2003 crop-year may vary from these March 1 intentions. Effects of weather during the planting season, availability and cost of production inputs and market prices are all factors in determining which crops and how much acreage Alabama farmers will actually plant." The Statistics Service will conduct another survey around June 1 to determine the acreage actually planted to each crop.

Alabama and United States: Prospective Plantings for 2003

Crop	Alabama				United States			
	2001	2002	Indicated 2003	2003 as Percent of 2002	2001	2002	Indicated 2003	2003 as Percent of 2002
	- 1,000 Acres Planted -				- 1,000 Acres Planted -			
	- Percent -				- Percent -			
Cotton	610	590	580	98	15,769	13,963	14,253	102
Corn	180	200	220	110	75,752	79,054	79,022	100
Soybeans	140	170	150	88	74,075	73,758	73,182	99
Peanuts	200	190	180	95	1,541	1,358	1,244	92
Grain Sorghum	12	10	12	120	10,252	9,580	9,451	99
Winter Wheat 1/	170	150	120	80	41,078	41,735	44,308	106
Hay 2/	920	800	820	103	63,521	64,497	63,552	99
Sweet Potatoes	3.0	2.9	2.9	100	99.1	97.2	93.5	96

1/ Planted previous fall. 2/ Acres for harvest.

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United States Hog and Pig Inventory

U.S. Hog inventory Down 2 percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2003, was 58.1 million head. This was 2 percent below March 1, 2002, and 2 percent below December 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year and 3 percent below last quarter. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.84 million sows farrow during the March-May 2003 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001. Intended farrowings for June-August 2003, at 2.79 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in both 2002 and 2001.

Item	United States		2003/2002 Percent
	2002	2003	
	1,000 Head		
All Hogs & Pigs	59,248	58,107	98
Kept for Breeding	6,236	5,956	96
Sows Farrowed (Dec-Feb)	2,836	2,767	98
Pigs Per Litter	8.74	8.81	101
Pig Crop (Dec-Feb)	24,794	24,374	98
Total Market Hogs	53,011	52,151	98
Under 60 Pounds	19,487	19,110	98
60-119 Pounds	12,975	12,655	98
120-179 Pounds	11,172	10,894	98
180+ Pounds	9,377	9,492	101

