



“ALABAMA AGRICULTURE COUNTS” FARM FACTS



HERB VANDERBERRY, DIRECTOR
ALABAMA STATISTICAL OFFICE

RON SPARKS, COMMISSIONER
ALABAMA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

PO Box 240578, Montgomery, AL 36124-0578 ● (334)279-3555

Released: April 15, 2005

This issue contains: ● Prospective Plantings ● U. S. Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Inventory

March 1, 2005 Planting Intentions Report

Overall planting intentions of Alabama’s four major row crops are down slightly from 2004. This year’s combined plantings are expected to be 1,150,000 acres, compared to 1,180,000 acres last year. **Cotton** and **peanut** acres are forecast to increase and **corn** decreased 2 percent, but soybean acres will decrease significantly. At 560,000 acres, **cotton** is estimated at 2 percent higher than last year but 2 percent below the 5-year average. Intentions for **corn** at 215,000 acres are down from 2004, but up 2 percent from the 5-year average of 210,000 acres. Many **Soybean** growers are concerned about cost and Asian Rust and intended to decrease acres. Acres are forecast at 160,000, 24 percent below last year, and 9 percent less than the 5-year average. **Peanut** acres are forecast at 215,000, 8 percent above last year and 11 percent more than the 5-year average. **Wheat seeded** at 120,000 acres remains unchanged from the previous forecast and the 2004 crop but are 18 percent below the 5-year average. Hay acreage expected for harvest is 865,000, up 2 percent from the 850,000 acres harvested last year, and 6 percent more than the 5-year average. **Sorghum** growers expect to plant 5,000 acres, half the acreage of last year and a record low. The demand for grain sorghum in Alabama has dropped off significantly. **Oats** planted acres are estimated at 50,000. **Sweet potato** intentions, at 2,700 acres, are down 100 acres from last year and 7 percent below the 5-year average. State Director, Herb Vanderberry says, “Actual plantings for the 2005 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.

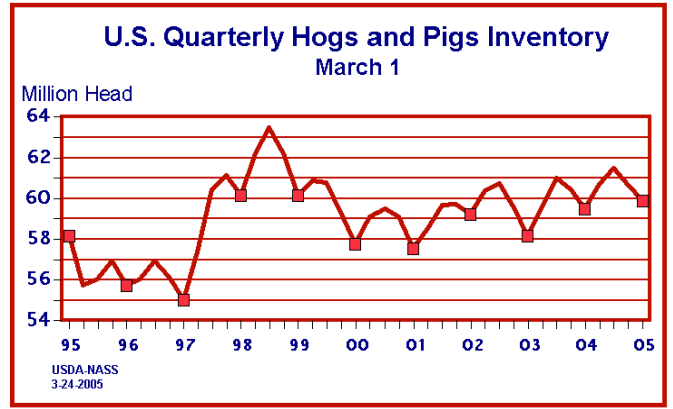
ALABAMA AND UNITED STATES: PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2005

CROP	ALABAMA				UNITED STATES			
	2003	2004	INDICATED 2005	2005 AS PERCENT OF 2004	2003	2004	INDICATED 2005	2005 AS PERCENT OF 2004
	- 1,000 ACRES PLANTED -				- 1,000 ACRES PLANTED -			
	- PERCENT -				- PERCENT -			
COTTON	525	550	560	102	13,480	13,659	13,815	101
CORN	220	220	215	98	78,603	80,930	81,413	101
SOYBEANS	170	210	160	76	73,404	75,208	73,910	98
PEANUTS	190	200	215	108	1,344	1,430	1,597	112
GRAIN SORGHUM	10	10	5	50	9,420	7,486	7,400	99
WINTER WHEAT 1/	150	120	120	100	45,384	43,350	41,613	96
HAY 2/	780	850	865	102	63,383	61,916	62,940	102
OATS	NA	NA	50	NA	4,597	4,085	4,267	104
SWEET POTATOES	2.7	2.8	2.7	96	95.8	97.4	94.9	97

1/ PLANTED PREVIOUS FALL. 2/ ACRES FOR HARVEST.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 1 Percent

ITEM	UNITED STATES		2005/2004
	2004	2005	
	1,000 HEAD		PERCENT
ALL HOGS & PIGS	59,520	59,899	101
KEPT FOR BREEDING	5,961	5,941	100
SOWS FARROWED (DEC-FEB)	2,836	2,851	101
PIGS PER LITTER	8.85	8.94	101
PIG CROP (DEC-FEB)	25,105	25,489	102
TOTAL MARKET HOGS	53,558	53,957	101
UNDER 60 POUNDS	19,823	19,817	100
60-119 POUNDS	12,954	13,087	101
120-179 POUNDS	11,205	11,430	102
180+ POUNDS	9,578	9,624	100



U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005 was 59.9 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

