The total 1989 Vermilion Parish income from marketed agricultural products is estimated at $81.5 million, down $10 million from the 1988 estimates.

According to Cecil J. McCrory, parish county agent, the decrease is a result of reduction in rice and soybean income. Rice income estimates for 1989 show $22.8 million compared to 1988's $27.7 million. Soybean income was at $17.3 million in 1988 while this year it is at $12.1 million.

Rice yields were three to four barrels below last year's estimate. This, said McCrory, was due to excessive rains received in late June and early July. "A majority of our rice was pollinating at this time. The rains caused a light and chaffy crop." Rice acreage remained stable at nearly 83,000 acres.

The excessive rains also had a tremendous effect on local soybean production. Planted acres decreased nearly 10,000 acres while yields averaged about 23 bushels, down from 25 bushels in 1988.

Many farmers replanted but received only marginal stands. Weeds were a tremendous problem. "We did have an excellent harvest with..."