La. Is Leading Yam Producer

WASHINGTON — Louisiana was the nation's No. 1 sweet potato producer in 1970, although the output was six percent less than the large 1969 production, the Department of Agriculture reported.

Although there has been for several years a downward trend in total sweet potato acreage, plantings in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas were up slightly compared with the 1969 total.

A substantial part of the Louisiana Sweet Potato production is canned and shipped to the eastern and mid-western markets.

The department estimates that sweet potato plantings in Louisiana in 1971 will be about 36,000 acres, down 35 percent from the 56,000 acres planted in 1970. Intended plantings this year are expected to total 125,000 acres for the sweet potato belt, a decline of about 14 percent over last year.