Planted acres up one percent

Planted acres of major crops in Louisiana in 1981 totaled 5.2 million acres, up 1 percent from a year ago, according to the Louisiana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Increases in acreage of cotton, rice, sorghum, hay, and sweet potatoes more than offset declines in soybeans and corn.

Soybeans, with the State's largest acreage, are expected to total 3.18 million acres in 1981, down 8 percent from last year and the first decline in acreage in Louisiana since 1973. Rice acreage is estimated at 650,000 acres, 6 percent above a year ago. Cotton growers have planted 640,000 acres of cotton, up 12 percent from 1980. Wheat seeded for harvest in 1981 is estimated at 310,000 acres, up 210,000 acres from a year earlier and the highest of record. Acreage harvested for grain in 1981 is estimated at 275,000. Acres of sugarcane indicated for harvest in 1981, at 260,000, are up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Estimated acreages of other crops and the change from last year are: sorghum, 50,000 acres, up 55 percent; corn, 45,000 acres, down 10 percent.

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