2008 FIELD CROPS HIGHLIGHTS

VALUE

The 2008 value of production for hay, peanuts, cotton and cottonseed, corn, pecans, soybeans, and wheat totaled $283,292,000, an increase of $55,596,000 or 24 percent from the revised 2007 value of production of $227,696,000. Cotton was the only field crop for which the value of production declined in 2008.

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

Acreage harvested for field crop production (excluding sugarcane) in 2008 was up 3 percent and totaled 592,000 acres. This was an increase of 16,000 acres from the revised 576,000 acres harvested in 2007. Harvested hay acreage was down 20,000 and cotton decreased 16,000 acres. Harvested acres of peanuts were up 21,000. Soybean and wheat acres harvested more than doubled in 2008 and were up 242 and 256 percent, respectively.

SUGARCANE

The value for the 2007 crop of sugarcane was set at $426,600,000, up slightly from $425,324,000 in 2006. Production was up 2 percent in 2007 at 14,520,000 tons. Yield was up 0.2 ton at 36.3 tons to the acre.

CROP WEATHER

As **January** began, farmers prepared crops for freezing temperatures. Potato planting continued in the tri-county area of Putnam, Flagler, and St. Johns counties; but growers took precautions by storing seed potatoes in barns with heaters. Unusually cold temperatures caused damage to small grains. Field activity slowed due to frost. Sugarcane harvesting remained active in the Everglades region. Although the long drought was interrupted mid-month by heavy rain across the State, water levels were still very low. Hay supplies and quality were suffering due to cold temperatures and insufficient rain.

Field work continued in early **February** as occasional rains improved soil moisture conditions in some areas of the Panhandle. Potato planting was steady in central Florida while harvesting began for some counties in the southern Peninsula. Hay supply was very low in parts of the Panhandle. Growers in south Florida harvested sugarcane. Winter wheat planting wrapped up. Late February showers soaked the western Panhandle and had some negative effects on wheat. Freezing temperatures caused some damage to Flagler County potatoes.

Soil moisture levels in the Panhandle were mostly adequate to surplus in the beginning of **March**. Fields were very wet and little farming was underway. Hay was in short supply in many areas. The local potato crop looked good in northeast Florida and was blooming by late March. Some growers decided not to plant cotton or corn due to the high cost of fuel and fertilizer. Recent wet weather in Santa Rosa County negatively impacted the late-planted winter wheat crop. By the end of March, dry and clear conditions allowed land preparations for field crop planting.

The significant rains in early **April** elevated soil moisture supplies. Most of the corn crop was harvested in the Panhandle while some producers in the Big Bend planted acres as well. Cool temperatures slowed plant germination and growth during the week of April 14-20. The potato harvest was underway in the Hastings area. Warm, dry daytime temperatures and scarce rain in late April increased the need for irrigation of the late-maturing crops in many fields. Peanut planting began in parts of the Panhandle and cotton planting began where fields had sufficient moisture.

Extreme drought conditions combined with gusty wind increased the danger of wildfire outbreaks during **May**. Several crop acres were stressed due to lack of rain. Hay was made where possible, but dry conditions left the crop in short supply. Acres of the cotton crop were replanted in areas of the Panhandle due to inadequate moisture.

Warm, dry, and windy conditions continued in early **June**. Many growers utilized irrigation systems. Wind damage affected a small percentage of the wheat acreage in the Panhandle. The drought persisted during the first half of June which continued to affect all field crops. Growers welcomed significant showers mid to late June. Peanuts were planted mostly ahead of schedule.

Rainfall continued as **July** began and conditions for most crops improved further. The central and southern regions of Florida received significant precipitation. Throughout the Panhandle however, rain showers were occurring, but less frequently. The lighter precipitation encouraged crops, but soils quickly returned to dry. Cotton in Washington and Jackson counties was doing well; however, cotton planted late was growing slowly. During mid-month, Pasco County reported relatively large amounts of hay being baled. By late July, small quantities of hay were being baled in Marion County. In Hendry County, hay was in good

condition. Rain continued to fall across the State. Some areas reported receiving almost too much precipitation. The peanut crop was being treated for tobacco worms, but 79% of peanuts were rated good or excellent as of July 27. As cotton emerged, growers practiced weed control. Sugarcane that went dormant from the stress of spring drought, worked to return to normal.

Early **August** began with showers covering most areas of the Sunshine State. The peanut crop progressed on schedule and most were rated good to excellent. Mid-month brought drier conditions for the Panhandle and Big Bend areas. Growers used irrigation when available. Santa Rosa County reported stress on the cotton due to dry conditions. Hay baling picked up in Marion County. Rainfall returned to the Panhandle and crop condition once again improved. Cotton, corn, and soybeans were mostly in good condition. Tropical Storm Fay caused excessive rainfall and flooding in many parts of the State. Many fields had standing water and flooding which halted field work. The corn harvest was delayed until moisture levels lowered. The end of the month bought more heavy rainfall to the already saturated eastern half of the central Peninsula counties. Flooding in Nassau County damaged the cotton crop. Jackson County cotton growers reported hard lock and boll rot. Standing water prevented hay baling in many fields. Other areas reported that water was draining quickly and damage from the tropical storm was minimal.

Although rain was not plentiful for northern Florida in early **September**, some fields were still very wet and trying to dry out from Tropical Storm Fay. A few growers reported losses. Several areas were not affected by winds or flooding and as a result, expected good yields. Corn harvesting wrapped up and peanut harvesting began around mid-month. The occasional shower delayed field work, but the rain was needed for most locations. Growers began harvesting cotton towards the end of the month. By the last week of September, peanut condition was rated 34% fair, 53% good, and 13% excellent. Peanut digging was 30% completed compared to 22% in 2007.

Fields in northern counties were dry in early **October**. The harvesting of peanuts continued despite some delays from extremely dry soils. Cotton and soybean growers began harvesting. During the second week of October significant rain fell on the north and central regions of the State. Some peanut growers reported that cool nights slowed maturing of their crop that remained in the ground. Soil moisture quickly returned to dry in most of the Panhandle, delaying some winter grains from being planted. Towards the end of October, beneficial rains revisited the Panhandle and southern area. Sugarcane harvest had just begun.

By **November** 1st peanut digging was approximately 90% complete, compared to 87% at this time in 2007. Clear skies aided field work for most regions. Cotton growers continued to harvest, with over half of the crop picked from the fields. Okaloosa County growers reported that they were cutting soybeans. Rye and other small grains emerged. Soil moisture levels were mostly short to adequate. Around mid-month rain caused some field work delays in the Panhandle, but relieved dry conditions. Cotton, soybeans, peanuts, corn, and hay harvests were nearly finished. Sugarcane harvest remained active.

Wheat was planted in the Panhandle during the first part of **December**. Most cotton harvesting wrapped up. In mid-December the Panhandle received over four inches of rain which helped most fields. The end of December was mostly dry, but pest and disease concerns remained. Sugarcane was harvested in south Florida. Some potato growers were preparing land, while others had already begun planting.

FLORIDA FIELD CROPS

Acreage, yield, production, and value, crop years 1999 through 2008 [1/]

Crop and year	Area		Yield	Production	Season average price	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	1,000 acres				*Dollars*	*1,000 dollars*
Corn [2/]			*Bushels*	*1,000 bushels*		
1999	90	40	93	3,720	2.32	8,630
2000	85	25	75	1,875	2.24	4,200
2001	65	26	87	2,262	2.25	5,090
2002	75	37	96	3,552	2.60	9,235
2003	75	39	82	3,198	2.55	8,155
2004	70	32	90	2,880	2.30	6,624
2005	65	28	94	2,632	2.00	5,264
2006	60	30	82	2,460	2.80	6,888
2007	70	35	90	3,150	4.00	12,600
2008	70	35	105	3,675	4.50	16,538
Cotton [3/]			*Pounds*	*1,000 bales*		
1999	107.0	106.0	516	114.0	0.425	23,256
2000	130.0	106.0	480	106.0	0.565	28,747
2001	125.0	124.0	612	158.0	0.295	22,373
2002	120.0	105.0	439	96.0	0.440	20,275
2003	94.0	92.0	610	117.0	0.655	36,785
2004	89.0	87.0	601	109.0	0.464	24,276
2005	86.0	85.0	762	135.0	0.480	31,104
2006	103.0	101.0	789	166.0	0.462	36,812
2007	85.0	81.0	687	116.0	0.580	32,294
2008	67.0	65.0	916	124.0	0.519	30,891
Cottonseed				*1,000 tons*		
1999	--	--	--	36.0	85.50	3,078
2000	--	--	--	38.0	100.00	3,800
2001	--	--	--	53.0	71.50	3,790
2002	--	--	--	29.0	81.50	2,364
2003	--	--	--	37.0	99.00	3,663
2004	--	--	--	35.0	86.00	3,010
2005	--	--	--	41.1	75.00	3,083
2006	--	--	--	49.3	92.50	4,560
2007	--	--	--	32.9	161.00	5,297
2008	--	--	--	37.2	203.00	7,552

[1/] All 2008 estimates are preliminary.
[2/] Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain.
[3/] Production in 480 pound net weight bales.

FLORIDA FIELD CROPS

Acreage, yield, production, and value, crop years 1999 through 2008 [1/]

Crop and year	Area		Yield	Production	Season average price	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	1,000 acres				*Dollars*	*1,000 dollars*
			Tons	*1,000 tons*		
Hay, All						
1999	--	260	2.90	754	95.50	72,007
2000	--	270	2.50	675	82.00	55,350
2001	--	270	2.80	756	96.00	72,576
2002	--	280	2.80	784	97.00	76,048
2003	--	255	2.50	638	90.00	57,420
2004	--	260	2.50	650	93.00	60,450
2005	--	290	2.45	711	98.50	70,034
2006	--	300	2.30	690	101.00	69,690
2007	--	320	3.00	960	116.00	111,360
2008	--	300	3.00	900	134.00	120,600
			Pounds	*1,000 pounds*		
Peanuts [2/]						
1999	102	94	2,770	260,380	0.232	60,408
2000	94	86	2,485	213,710	0.300	64,113
2001	90	82	3,050	250,100	0.215	53,772
2002	96	86	2,300	197,800	0.178	35,208
2003	125	115	3,000	345,000	0.185	63,825
2004	145	130	2,800	364,000	0.181	65,884
2005	160	152	2,700	410,400	0.167	68,537
2006	130	120	2,500	300,000	0.173	51,900
2007	130	119	2,700	321,300	0.186	59,762
2008	150	140	3,200	448,000	0.197	88,256
			Bushels	*1,000 bushels*		
Soybeans [2/]						
1999	20	19	32	608	4.65	2,827
2000	20	15	19	285	4.45	1,268
2001	10	9	29	261	4.20	1,096
2002	10	9	33	297	5.35	1,589
2003	13	12	30	360	6.90	2,484
2004	19	17	34	578	5.60	3,237
2005	9	8	32	256	5.40	1,382
2006	7	5	27	135	6.25	844
2007	14	12	24	288	8.90	2,563
2008	32	29	38	1,102	8.50	9,367

[1/] All 2008 estimates are preliminary.
[2/] Planted for all purposes; harvested for dry nuts or beans.

FLORIDA FIELD CROPS

Acreage, yield, production, and value, crop years 1999 through 2008 [1/]

Crop and year	Area		Yield	Production	Season average price	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	1,000 acres				*Dollars*	*1,000 dollars*
Sugarcane For Sugar and Seed			*Tons*	*1,000 tons*		
1999	--	460	35.0	16,100	27.20	437,920
2000	--	454	37.5	17,041	28.60	487,373
2001	--	465	35.1	16,338	31.70	517,915
2002	--	461	38.3	17,653	31.70	559,600
2003	--	438	39.3	17,231	31.55	549,669
2004	--	406	35.2	14,281	30.30	432,714
2005	--	401	31.8	12,746	28.00	356,888
2006	--	400	35.9	14,346	31.10	446,161
2007	--	393	36.1	14,177	31.60	447,993
2008	--	400	36.3	14,520	[2/]	[2/]
Sugarcane For Sugar			*Tons*	*1,000 tons*		
1999	--	443	35.0	15,505	27.20	421,736
2000	--	436	37.5	16,350	28.60	467,610
2001	--	445	35.1	15,620	31.70	495,154
2002	--	442	38.3	16,929	31.70	536,649
2003	--	419	39.3	16,467	31.90	525,297
2004	--	385	34.9	13,437	30.30	407,141
2005	--	376	31.4	11,806	28.00	330,568
2006	--	382	35.8	13,676	31.10	425,324
2007	--	375	36.1	13,552	31.60	426,600
2008	--	384	36.1	13,848	[2/]	[2/]
Tobacco, Flue-Cured, Type 14			*Pounds*	*1,000 pounds*		
1999	--	5.8	2,640	15,312	1.730	26,490
2000	--	4.5	2,550	11,475	1.730	19,852
2001	--	4.5	2,600	11,700	1.871	21,891
2002	--	4.6	2,600	11,960	1.879	22,473
2003	--	4.4	2,500	11,000	1.851	20,361
2004	--	4.0	2,450	9,800	1.849	18,120
2005	--	2.5	2,200	5,500	1.509	8,300
2006	--	1.1	2,600	2,860	1.510	4,319
2007 [3/]						

[1/] All 2008 estimates are preliminary.
[2/] Estimates of season average price and value of production for the 2008 crop will be available February 2010.
[3/] Estimates discontinued in 2007.

FLORIDA FIELD CROPS

Acreage, yield, production, and value, crop years 1999 through 2008 [1/]

Crop and year	Area		Yield	Production	Season average price	Value of production
	Planted	Harvested				
	1,000 acres		*Bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*Dollars*	*1,000 dollars*
Wheat						
1999	16	13	40	520	2.45	1,274
2000	13	9	49	441	2.25	992
2001	10	9	41	369	2.25	830
2002	19	7	35	245	2.40	588
2003	20	12	41	492	3.00	1,476
2004	18	15	45	675	3.45	2,329
2005	18	8	45	360	3.10	1,116
2006	8	5	42	210	3.15	662
2007	13	9	55	495	4.00	1,980
2008	25	23	55	1,265	5.50	6,958

[1/] All 2008 estimates are preliminary.

FLORIDA PECANS

Production, price and value, crop years 1999 through 2008

Crop and year	Utilized production			Season average price		
	Varieties		Total	Varieties		Total
	Improved	Native and seedling		Improved	Native and seedling	
	1,000 pounds			*Cents*		
1999	1,100	2,600	3,700	90.0	65.0	72.4
2000	1,200	2,100	3,300	105.0	60.0	76.4
2001	1,200	2,100	3,300	51.0	42.0	45.3
2002	500	900	1,400	87.0	50.0	63.2
2003	500	1,600	2,100	100.0	60.0	69.5
2004	400	100	500	150.0	95.0	139.0
2005	300	700	1,000	140.0	85.0	102.0
2006	200	300	500	180.0	150.0	162.0
2007	1,700	200	1,900	100.0	70.0	97.0
2008	1,400	300	1,700	200.0	110.0	1,840

FLORIDA PECANS

Value of utilized production, crop years 1999 through 2008

Crop year	Varieties		Total
	Improved	Native and seedling	
	1,000 dollars		
1999	990	1,690	2,680
2000	1,260	1,260	2,520
2001	612	882	1,494
2002	435	450	885
2003	500	960	1,460
2004	600	95	695
2005	420	595	1,015
2006	360	450	810
2007	1,700	140	1,840
2008	2,800	330	3,130

FLORIDA CORN

Acreage, yield and production, by district and county, 2007 and 2008

District and county	Planted for all purposes		Harvested for grain		Yield per acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres				*Bushels*			
District 10								
Escambia	4,500	6,400	2,000	3,300	100.0	124.0	199,900	409,200
Gadsden	1,500	1,200	1,400	600	70.1	87.0	98,100	52,200
Holmes	2,200	1,200	1,500	800	69.3	95.0	104,000	76,300
Jackson	9,800	6,700	6,200	3,500	100.9	146.0	625,400	512,000
Okaloosa	500	600	400	300	66.0	94.0	26,400	28,300
Santa Rosa	600	1/	400	1/	67.0	1/	26,800	1/
Walton	2,000	1,300	1,000	600	63.0	99.0	63,000	59,600
Washington	1,900	1,500	800	800	93.8	102.0	75,000	81,300
Other counties	6,500	8,000	4,000	4,000	82.5	109.0	330,100	436,400
Total	**29,500**	**26,900**	**17,700**	**13,900**	**87.5**	**119.0**	**1,548,700**	**1,655,300**
District 30								
Columbia	1/	1,900	1/	1,400	1/	77.0	1/	108,100
Hamilton	4,900	1/	4,300	1/	135.0	1/	580,500	1/
Madison	6,900	6,200	4,300	3,000	60.0	99.0	258,000	298,200
Suwannee	7,100	6,900	2,300	3,300	106.2	154.0	244,200	507,000
Other counties	6,000	7,700	3,200	3,700	107.0	125.0	342,300	462,300
Total	**24,900**	**22,700**	**14,100**	**11,400**	**101.1**	**121.0**	**1,425,000**	**1,375,600**
Other, State	**15,600**	**20,400**	**3,200**	**9,700**	**55.1**	**66.0**	**176,300**	**644,100**
State Total	**70,000**	**70,000**	**35,000**	**35,000**	**90.0**	**105.0**	**3,150,000**	**3,675,000**

1/ Included in Other counties.

FLORIDA PEANUTS

Acreage, yield and production, by district and county, 2006 and 2007

District and county	Planted for all purposes		Harvested for dry peanuts		Yield per acre		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Acres				*Pounds*		*1,000 pounds*	
District 10								
Calhoun	2,800	4,800	2,600	3,700	2,615	2,260	6,799	8,362
Escambia	5,700	7,400	5,300	6,500	2,645	2,780	14,019	18,070
Gadsden	900	1,000	900	900	2,260	1,260	2,034	1,134
Holmes	4,900	4,400	4,600	4,000	2,810	2,405	12,926	9,620
Jackson	30,600	28,700	28,600	26,500	2,175	2,480	62,205	65,720
Jefferson	1,800	1/	1,700	1/	2,250	1/	3,825	1/
Okaloosa	2,000	1,800	1,900	1,500	2,515	2,770	4,778	4,155
Santa Rosa	15,300	16,700	13,900	15,100	2,625	3,100	36,488	46,810
Walton	2,500	3,000	2,500	2,400	2,270	2,780	5,675	6,672
Washington	2,400	1/	2,200	1/	2,810	1/	6,182	1/
Total	**68,900**	**67,800**	**64,200**	**60,600**	**2,413**	**2,649**	**154,931**	**160,543**
District 30								
Columbia	4,000	1/	3,500	1/	2,305	1/	8,068	1/
Hamilton	3,300	1/	3,000	1/	2,395	1/	7,185	1/
Lafayette	1,600	1/	1,400	1/	2,360	1/	3,304	1/
Madison	7,200	1/	6,500	1/	2,500	1/	16,250	1/
Suwannee	9,600	1/	8,800	1/	2,840	1/	24,992	1/
Total	**25,700**	1/	**23,200**	1/	**2,578**	1/	**59,799**	1/
District 50								
Alachua	4,300	3,500	4,100	3,400	3,375	3,297	13,838	11,209
Gilchrist	4,900	4,700	4,500	4,500	2,000	2,725	9,000	12,262
Levy	14,100	14,700	13,400	14,400	2,700	2,410	36,180	34,695
Marion	6,700	1/	6,000	1/	2,510	1/	15,060	1/
Sumter	1,300	1/	1,100	1/	2,230	1/	2,453	1/
Total	**31,300**	**22,900**	**29,100**	**22,300**	**2,630**	**2,608**	**76,531**	**58,167**
Other, State	**4,100**	**39,300**	**3,500**	**36,100**	**2,497**	**2,842**	**8,739**	**102,590**
State Total	**130,000**	**130,000**	**120,000**	**119,000**	**2,500**	**2,700**	**300,000**	**321,300**

1/ Included in Other, State.

FLORIDA SOYBEANS

Acreage, yield and production, by district and county, 2007 and 2008

District and county	Planted for all purposes		Harvested for beans		Yield per acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres				*Bushels*			
District 10								
Escambia	2,500	6,600	2,300	6,200	21.0	42.0	48,300	260,400
Holmes	1/	4,300	1/	4,000	1/	37.0	1/	148,200
Santa Rosa	1/	2,300	1/	2,100	1/	45.0	1/	94,500
Jackson	3,300	1/	2,400	1/	28.0	1/	67,100	1/
Other counties	5,900	14,900	5,100	13,500	23.3	38.0	118,700	515,900
Total	**11,700**	**28,100**	**9,800**	**25,800**	**23.9**	**39.5**	**234,100**	**1,019,000**
District 30								
Madison	1,600	2,300	1,500	2,000	23.9	27.0	35,800	54,000
Other counties	700	800	700	600	25.9	25.0	18,100	14,900
Total	**2,300**	**3,100**	**2,200**	**2,600**	**24.5**	**26.5**	**53,900**	**68,900**
Other, State		**800**		**600**		**23.5**		**14,100**
State Total	**14,000**	**32,000**	**12,000**	**29,000**	**24.0**	**38.0**	**288,000**	**1,102,000**

1/ Included in Other counties.

FLORIDA TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED, TYPE 14

Acreage, yield and production, by district and county, 2006

District and county	Harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Acres		*Pounds*			
State Total	**1,100**	1/	**2,600**	1/	**2,860,000**	1/

1/ Tobacco county estimates discontinued in 2007 due to limited number of growers.

FLORIDA COTTON

Acreage, yield and production, by district and county, 2007 and 2008

District and county	Planted		Harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres				*Pounds*		*Bales*	
District 10								
Calhoun	6,800	[1/]	6,600	[1/]	662	[1/]	9,100	[1/]
Escambia	8,200	5,700	8,100	5,500	747	986	12,600	11,300
Holmes	[1/]	1,500	[1/]	1,400	[1/]	686	[1/]	2,000
Jackson	31,200	24,900	28,900	24,300	668	887	40,200	44,900
Okaloosa	4,100	2,500	4,000	2,400	684	1,100	5,700	5,500
Santa Rosa	23,100	17,000	22,500	17,000	740	1,033	34,700	36,600
Walton	3,200	2,400	3,000	2,200	496	916	3,100	4,200
Total	**76,600**	**54,000**	**73,100**	**52,800**	**692**	**950**	**105,400**	**104,500**
Other, State	**8,400**	**13,000**	**7,900**	**12,200**	**644**	**767**	**10,600**	**19,500**
State Total	**85,000**	**67,000**	**81,000**	**65,000**	**687**	**916**	**116,000**	**124,000**

[1/] Included in Other, State.

FLORIDA SUGARCANE FOR SUGAR

Acreage, yield and production, by county, 2006and 2007

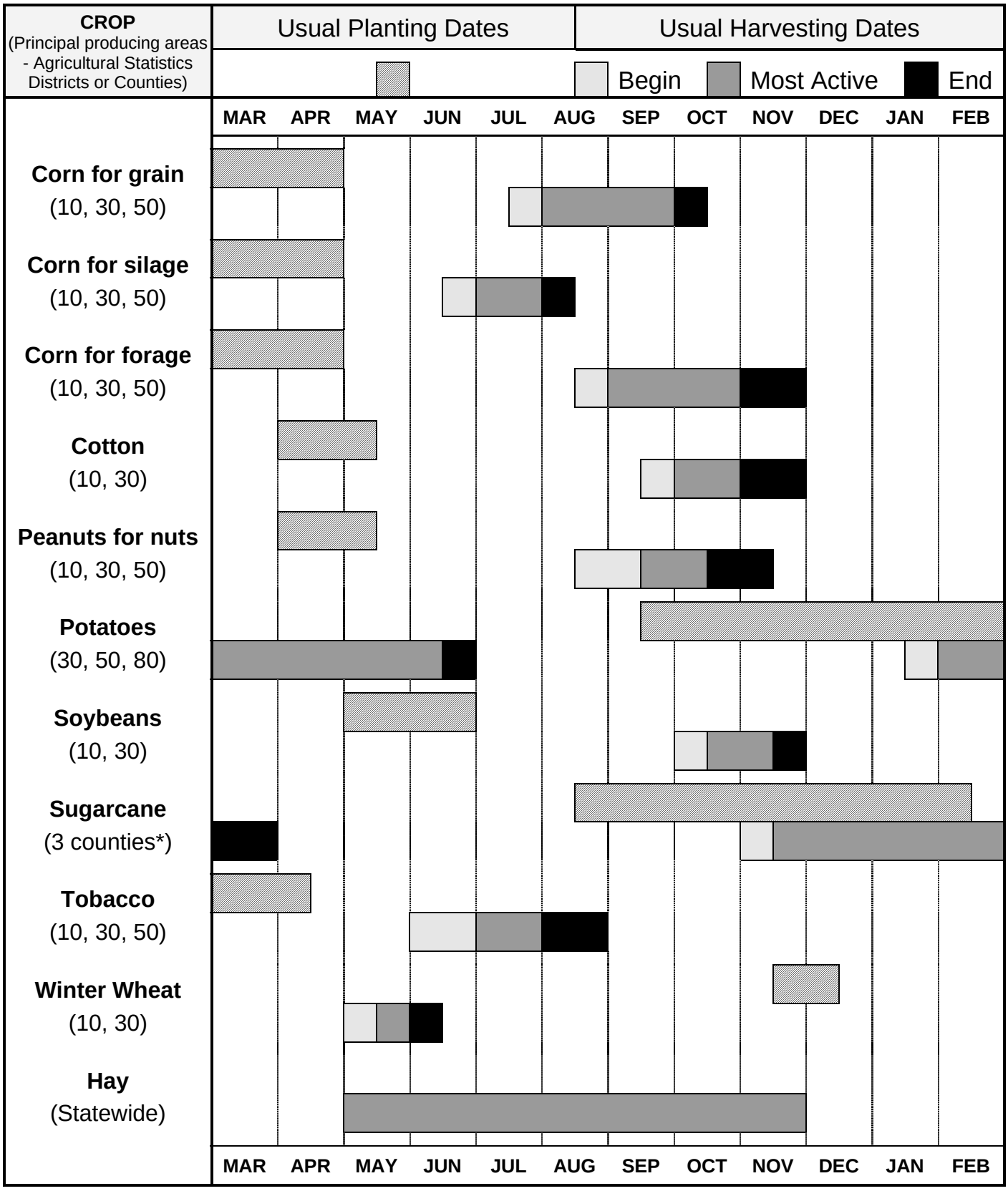
District and county	Harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Acres		*Tons*			
Glades	35,000	37,000	42.0	40.5	1,470,000	1,500,000
Hendry	30,000	34,000	42.0	39.8	1,260,000	1,352,000
Palm Beach	317,000	304,000	34.5	35.2	10,946,000	10,700,000
State Total	**382,000**	**375,000**	**35.8**	**36.1**	**13,676,000**	**13,552,000**

FLORIDA WHEAT

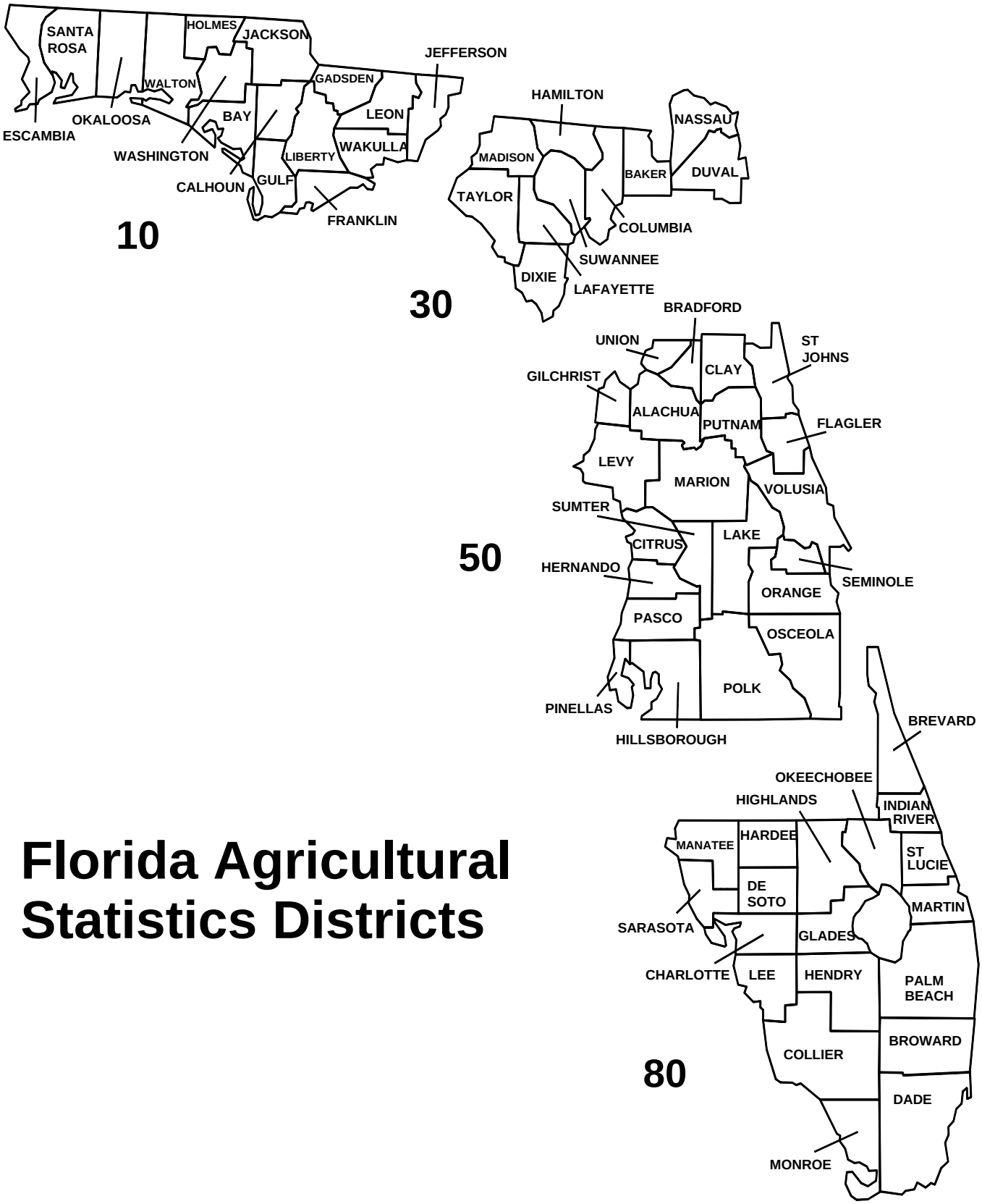
Acreage, yield and production, by district, 2007and 2008

District	Planted for all purposes		Harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres				*Bushels*			
District 10								
Escambia	[1/]	9,200	[1/]	8,700	[1/]	61.0	[1/]	530,900
Other	10,000	10,200	7,700	9,300	56.6	54.0	435,650	501,600
Total	10,000	19,400	7,700	18,000	56.6	57.5	435,650	1,032,500
Other, State	**3,000**	**5,600**	**1,300**	**5,000**	**45.7**	**46.5**	**59,350**	**232,500**
State Total	**13,000**	**25,000**	**9,000**	**23,000**	**55.0**	**55.0**	**495,000**	**1,265,000**

PLANTING AND HARVESTING SEASONS OF SELECTED FLORIDA FIELD CROPS



* Palm Beach, Hendry and Glades



Florida Agricultural Statistics Districts