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FARM BUREAU ARKANSAS
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Prospective Plantings 2025

On March 31, USDA released its annual Prospective Plantings Report. The report marks the first major indicator of the growing season, based on more than 70,000 farmer surveys. While these initial projections provide insight into planting intentions, actual acreage may fluctuate as farmers respond to weather conditions, market dynamics and input costs.

Key Highlights

- **Corn:** The most significant increase in 2025 is in corn plantings, with projected increases of 5% nationally and 30% in Arkansas.
- **Cotton:** The largest decline is in cotton acreage, with expected reductions of 13% across the U.S. and 12% in Arkansas.
- **Market Reactions:** These planting estimates influence market trends, with traders closely monitoring planting progress, global production, weather patterns, and key economic factors throughout the season.

Prospective Planting

	2024[1] (1,000 acres)	2024 (Actual)[2] (1,000 acres)	2025[3] (1,000 acres)	% Change[4]
Corn				
United States	90,036	90,594	95,326	5%
Arkansas	620	500	710	30%
Soybeans				
United States	86,510	87,050	83,495	-4%
Arkansas	3,100	3,050	3,000	-2%
Wheat				
United States	47,498	46,079	45,350	-2%
Arkansas	135	130	120	-8%
Rice				
United States	2,932	2,910	2,895	-1%
Arkansas	1,451	1,448	1,461	1%
Cotton				
United States	10,673	11,182	9,867	-13%
Arkansas	540	650	580	-12%

1) Prospective Plantings Report – USDA/NASS – March 31, 2024
2) Annual Production Report - USDA/NASS – January 10, 2025
3) Prospective Plantings Report - USDA/NASS – March 31, 2025
4) Based on Prospective Plantings reports

2025 Arkansas Agricultural Projections

Using data from the Prospective Plantings Report and historical trends, we put together 2025 projections for harvested area, yield and total production. These estimates serve as benchmarks but are subject to adjustment as conditions evolve.

Arkansas									
Type	Area Harvested			Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2023	2024	Projected 2025	2023	2024	Projected 2025	2023	2024	Projected 2025
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(Bushels)	(Bushels)	(Bushels)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Corn	830	480	691	183	187	182	151,890	89,760	126,001
Soybean	2,950	3,020	2,971	54	55	53	159,300	166,100	157,449
Wheat	145	85	81	58	56	56	8,410	4,760	4,504
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
Rice	1,416	1,432	1,440	7,550	7,640	7,546	106,895	109,407	108,643
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(1,000 bales)	(1,000 bales)	(1,000 bales)
Cotton	505	640	552	1,295	1,313	1,242	1,362	1,750	1,428

Corn

Arkansas is expected to harvest approximately 687,000 acres of corn in 2025, reflecting a 97% harvest rate based on historical trends. This exceeds the previous five-year average by roughly 7,000 acres. Assuming a five-year average yield of 182 bushels per acre, Arkansas corn production could reach approximately 126 million bushels — an increase of over 20 million bushels compared to 2024. The substantial increase in national corn acreage could exert downward pressure on prices. This could be compounded with the global corn supply/demand balance sheet remaining bearish, with higher production and reduced trade. Nationally, if the corn acreage is realized, planted corn acres would be the third highest since 1944 and the highest since 2013. The USDA's 2024/25 season-average farm price projection stands at $4.35 per bushel, a notable decrease from $6.40 in the previous marketing year.

Soybeans

Soybean plantings in Arkansas are expected to decline by 2%, with an anticipated harvested area of 2,971,000 acres. Despite this decrease, the acreage remains consistent with the five-year average. Based on an estimated yield of 53 bushels per acre, soybean production could decline in Arkansas by approximately 4.2 million bushels from 2024. Nationally, soybean plantings are expected to drop by 4% (3.56 mil acres), which may contribute to market tightening, though ample global supplies and higher than estimated U.S. stocks could keep prices in check. If this decrease in national soybean plantings is realized, it would be the smallest acreage in five years. USDA projects a U.S. season-average price of $9.95 per bushel, down slightly from last year's $10.20.

Wheat

Wheat acreage in Arkansas is expected to decline by 8%, with harvested acreage projected at 81,000 acres, marking the lowest level since 2020. With an estimated yield of 56 bushels per acre, total wheat production is expected to reach 4.5 million bushels, down approximately 162,000 bushels from 2024. Nationally, wheat acreage is set to decline by 2%, reflecting ongoing shifts in planting preferences driven by market dynamics. This has the all-wheat acres at 45.35 million, which is below expectations. If realized, this would be the second lowest wheat acreage figure ever in the U.S. USDA forecasts a 2024/25 season-average farm price of $5.50 per bushel, slightly below the previous year's $5.65, as global supply and demand factors influence market conditions.

Rice

Arkansas rice acreage is expected to total 1,461,000 acres, up 1% from 2024. 1,320,000 acres are expected to be seeded to long grain, with the remaining 141,000 acres dedicated to medium and short grain. This marks the highest rice acreage since 2016, reflecting lower prices for other commodities and recent strong field yields for rice. Assuming a harvest percentage of 98% and estimated yields of 7,546 pounds per acre, this would put Arkansas production at around 108.6 million CWT. U.S. acreage is expected to decline 1%, reflecting small declines in production in every other rice producing state. The supply/demand balance sheet remains bearish, with ending stocks of 47.0 million cwt the highest since 2014/2015. Record-high imports of long grain aromatic rice from Thailand and India are adding pressure to the domestic market. While the season average expected on-farm price has increased in recent reports, the 2024/25 long grain price of $14.20/cwt is down $1.70 from 2023/24 and $2.50/cwt from 2022/23.

Cotton

Cotton acreage is set for a sharp decline, with expected reductions of 13% nationally and 12% in Arkansas. Weaker relative pricing compared to other crops has led to this reduction, as farmers shift to more profitable alternatives. Arkansas is projected to harvest approximately 552,000 acres, representing a 95% harvest rate. While this figure is above the five-year average, it reflects a year-over-year decline of 88,000 acres. Assuming a yield of 1,242 pounds per acre, total production is estimated at 1.43 million bales, a drop of 322,000 bales from 2024. Nationally, this reduction in expected planted acres reflects the lowest planted acres in over a decade. Cotton has been facing very poor profitability for several years now and is among the crops with the highest percentage of production exported, making it vulnerable to retaliatory tariffs. USDA projects an upland cotton price of 63 cents per pound, three cents lower than the previous marketing year, as global economic factors and textile demand influence pricing.

Conclusion

The 2025 Prospective Plantings Report highlights key shifts in U.S. and Arkansas crop acreage, particularly increases in corn plantings and declines in cotton and soybean acreage. Reflecting farmers' thoughts that specific commodities could be more profitable than others. However, as the season unfolds, economic conditions, weather patterns, and global demand will play critical roles in shaping final outcomes. Continuous monitoring of these factors will help stakeholders make informed decisions throughout the year. For farmers, these projections provide an essential guidepost for planning, but flexibility remains key as market conditions evolve. Input costs, trade policies and global economic trends will continue to shape the agricultural landscape. As the season progresses, close attention to personal breakeven prices, supply chain disruptions, export demand and policy changes will be crucial for maximizing profitability and managing risk.



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