

2015

## **2015 Louisiana Summary: Agriculture and Natural Resources**

LSU AgCenter

## *Agriculture: Backbone of Louisiana's Economy*

This publication tabulates the value of Louisiana agriculture in 2015. Agents and specialists of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, as well as other agencies – both private and public – compiled the data. Their analyses focus on the animal, forestry, fisheries, plant and wildlife commodities that comprise our vital agricultural industry. Agricultural and natural resource industries contribute significantly to our state's economy with the potential for increased economic benefits and job creation through value-added processing in urban and rural communities throughout Louisiana.

After three consecutive years of nearly ideal growing conditions and record production, the 2015 production year was one of extremes and significant challenges for the agricultural sector. Although the year started out very similar to 2014 with wet conditions, it did not have the uncharacteristically cool temperatures during much of the spring and early summer as was the case in 2014. Higher temperatures, and particularly much higher nighttime temperatures, created significantly more stress on commodities and limited production potential. In addition, heavy rainfall in Louisiana and throughout many northern states created excessive flooding along the Red and Sabine rivers to blunt agricultural production. Excessive rains and higher temperatures in the spring devastated the 2015 winter wheat crop. Reduced yields and poor quality from high disease pressure reduced farm gate wheat values by nearly 50 percent for many producers.

The wet conditions that persisted through May and into June 2015 quickly vanished as temperatures reached triple digit levels, and rainfall came to an abrupt stop. Drought conditions started to develop in July and remained through most of the next two months in many areas of the state, with over half of the state characterized as being in either a severe or extreme drought by the end of September.

Dryland crops, hay and forage production were all significantly affected. For irrigated cropland, production was also crippled by excessive heat, and their production costs rose due to increased irrigation requirements.

The excessively hot and dry conditions did, however, support timely harvest of most crops and helped limit the issues being faced by producers. But, just like the rest of the year, conditions soon changed with a return of excessive rainfall. In many areas of the state, as much as 30 inches of rain fell between October and December. This debilitated harvest efficiency for sugarcane production and reduced sugar recovery for many operations. It also severely limited the ability to plant the 2016 winter wheat crop, resulting in the lowest planted acres levels in the state since the late 1970s.

Although extremes in weather conditions during a crop year often create a variety of challenges for agricultural producers, they do not always cause significant reductions in production. Unfortunately, that was likely not the case in 2015. Average yields for many of the state's major row crop commodities fell significantly in 2015. Year-to-year decreases in yields ranged from a low of 6 percent for corn production to a high of more than 40 percent for wheat production. In fact, the only major row crop commodity that did not experience year-to-year decreases in average yield was sugarcane. Higher sugarcane tonnage in 2015 offset lower sugar recovery from wet conditions at harvest.

In addition to the production struggles experienced in 2015, agricultural producers also had to deal with lower commodity prices. After several years of historically strong prices, many commodities experienced strikingly lower prices in 2015. Consecutive years of production growth and expansion simply had outpaced demand growth for many commodities. This has placed considerable pressure on prices. Although prices did not decline for every commodity grown in Louisiana, the overall trend in prices for 2015 was definitely lower. This drop was especially true for major row crop commodities with only sugar prices experiencing marginal price improvement in 2015. The remaining major row crop commodities all experienced lower prices in 2015, ranging from a low of 2 percent for grain sorghum to a high of 23 percent for soybeans.

The price situation for livestock enterprises in 2015 was more mixed with several enterprises experiencing year-to-year increases. Prices for most classes of cattle were marginally higher in 2015. Much of that increase, however, was attributable to strong prices early in 2015. By the end of 2015, cattle prices had experienced sharp declines and remained at significant discounts. Prices associated with dairy enterprises also were mixed, with dairy cattle prices being higher, but milk prices being nearly 26 percent lower than in 2014. Finally, for poultry enterprises,

prices were lower across all classes of poultry ranging from a low of a 3 percent reduction to a high of 8 percent.

Despite any difficulty individual producers may have experienced in 2015, collectively producers experienced only modest declines in economic value for the state's agricultural commodities. The 2015 total gross farm gate value for the agricultural industry was \$6.5 billion, a decrease of 8 percent from the previous year. Plant enterprises dropped significantly in gross farm gate values to \$3.5 billion in 2015, a 15 percent decrease, due to much lower returns for soybeans, rice, feed grains and cotton.

Animal enterprises generated an estimated \$2.2 billion in gross farm gate value in 2015, essentially the same as 2014. Leading the way was the beef cattle industry, which experienced a 7 percent increase from the previous year. Slightly higher number of cattle for sale helped push farm gate values higher for beef cattle. Improvements in this industry were enough to offset the reductions seen in poultry enterprises, which decreased 6 percent in 2015 from 2014 values.

Leading the way for the \$838 million in gross farm gate value generated for the fisheries and wildlife enterprises were the marine fisheries and aquaculture industries. Increased marine fisheries landings, particularly shrimp, in 2014, the year reported, accompanied with higher prices, reflect the continued recovery of Gulf fisheries from devastation of the oil spill suffered in 2009.

The aquaculture sector was primarily driven by the farm-raised crawfish producers, who increased production slightly with higher harvested yields that to some degree helped offset slightly lower prices. Farm-gate value from farm-raised alligators was strong again in 2015 due to high wholesale prices for both hides and meat. This increased revenue from both crawfish and alligator production helped boost total value of aquaculture in Louisiana in 2015.

With the increased production experienced in certain agricultural sectors in 2015, value-added activities associated with those sectors of agricultural production also increased. When those commodities were cleaned, processed and packaged, the value-added was estimated to be \$5.5 billion. Taken together with farm gate values, value-added activities helped to generate \$12.0 billion in economic impact to the state of Louisiana in 2015. Though this represents a 3 percent decrease over 2014, it demonstrates that the agriculture industry continues to be a significant contributor to the state's economy. Cutting-edge research programs and extension education and outreach efforts remain critical to sustaining these significant economic benefits.

Many Louisiana communities depend on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and wildlife for local jobs and their economic well-being. The heart of agronomic agriculture is found in northeastern, southwestern and south central Louisiana. Forestry production occurs mostly in the state's northwestern hill parishes, and fisheries production takes place mostly along the coast, although aquaculture production of catfish is located mainly in the northeast Louisiana Delta area.

For those who work in it day in and day out, agriculture, forestry and fisheries are far more than a business, a major job contributor and an economic engine. It truly is a way of life. Families have lived on many of these farms, forest lands or fishing villages for generations following a preferred way of life even though it means hard work, many hours, high risks and sometimes low incomes.

Each new production season has risks associated with commodity prices, trade agreements and higher input costs as well as uncertainty related to the weather. These conditions make the discovery and adoption of new agricultural technology developed by the LSU AgCenter more important than ever to our state's producers.

Agriculture is a highly sophisticated segment of the national and world economy, becoming increasingly so every year. That is the reason we at the LSU AgCenter continue to support agriculture and consumers with factual information provided by a well-trained faculty of extension agents, specialists and research scientists.

Those of us in the LSU AgCenter, with its major branches of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, are proud to be part of Louisiana's agricultural industry, and we are committed to serving that industry and residents across the state of Louisiana in the years ahead.



William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary, Agriculture and Natural Resources .....	4
---	---

## Animal Enterprises

Beef Cattle.....	5
Dairy .....	5
Horses .....	6
Poultry .....	7
Rabbits.....	8
Sheep and Goats .....	8
Swine.....	8
Exotic Animals.....	9

## Fisheries and Wildlife Enterprises

Aquaculture .....	9
Fisheries .....	10
Fur .....	13
Hunting Lease Enterprises .....	13
Honey .....	14

## Plant Enterprises

Cotton.....	15
Feed Grains .....	15
Forestry.....	16
Fruit Crops.....	18
Greenhouse Vegetables (Commercial).....	20
Hay Sold .....	21
Home Vegetable Gardens .....	21
Nursery Crops .....	22
Peanuts .....	22
Pecans .....	22
Rice.....	23
Sod and Turfgrass Production.....	24
Soybeans.....	24
Sugarcane .....	25
Sweet Potatoes.....	26
Vegetables (Commercial).....	27
Wheat.....	28
2015 Progress Report.....	29
State Totals.....	31

## Parish Agricultural Reports

Acadia .....	42
Allen.....	48
Ascension.....	52
Assumption.....	58
Avoyelles .....	62
Beauregard.....	69
Bienville .....	75
Bossier .....	80
Caddo .....	86
Calcasieu .....	93
Caldwell.....	99
Cameron .....	103
Catahoula.....	108

Claiborne .....	113
Concordia.....	119
DeSoto .....	124
East Baton Rouge.....	130
East Carroll.....	136
East Feliciana .....	140
Evangeline .....	144
Franklin.....	149
Grant.....	154
Iberia .....	159
Iberville.....	165
Jackson.....	169
Jefferson.....	172
Jefferson Davis .....	176
Lafayette .....	181
Lafourche .....	187
LaSalle .....	193
Lincoln .....	197
Livingston .....	201
Madison .....	207
Morehouse.....	211
Natchitoches.....	216
Orleans.....	221
Ouachita.....	224
Plaquemines.....	230
Pointe Coupee.....	234
Rapides .....	240
Red River .....	247
Richland.....	253
Sabine.....	259
St. Bernard .....	264
St. Charles.....	268
St. Helena .....	274
St. James.....	278
St. John.....	282
St. Landry .....	287
St. Martin.....	294
St. Mary.....	300
St. Tammany .....	304
Tangipahoa .....	310
Tensas.....	317
Terrebonne .....	321
Union .....	326
Vermilion .....	331
Vernon .....	336
Washington.....	341
Webster .....	347
West Baton Rouge.....	353
West Carroll .....	357
West Feliciana.....	362
Winn .....	367

Prices Per Unit of Commodity Products .....	372
--	-----

# Louisiana Summary

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

### 2015

The statistical information in this summary was compiled from estimates made by extension agents of the LSU AgCenter after consulting with agricultural agency representatives, agricultural and agribusiness leaders and others and after study of various reports and resource materials. State specialists with the LSU AgCenter checked parish-level data for specific commodities to ensure accuracy and consistency of all production information. Final review of data was conducted by LSU AgCenter agricultural economist and project director Dr. John Westra in consultation with external sources, including state and federal statistical agencies. Any inquiries about the data in this publication should be directed to Dr. John Westra in the LSU AgCenter's Department of Agricultural Economics who oversees the process of gathering all information for the Louisiana Summary.

Although this material is reasonably accurate and can be used for planning and other general informational purposes, this is not the official document of agricultural data for the state. Official statistical data are gathered, summarized and published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Delta Regional Field Office, 10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, AR 72211. Reproduction or publication of information in this summary should acknowledge the Louisiana Summary as the source, but indicate the unofficial nature of the statistics.

Gross value was calculated for each commodity, which in some cases included a value from natural resources and consequently may not represent income to farmers. Gross farm values were calculated using calendar-year, market-weighted, state-level average prices, when available. When state-level price information was unavailable, price information was used from adjacent states (Texas, Arkansas or Mississippi) or the nation. Primary sources for prices were: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, and USDA Economic Research Service. The gross value was an indicator of the commodity's contribution to economic activity in the state but was not an indicator of farm profits. Production costs greatly affected profit (or loss) for all commodities. Even when gross income increased over previous years, corresponding increases in production costs may have decreased farm profits.

In the state summaries, the value added in cleaning, processing, packaging, marketing and transporting commodities was an estimate of the total contribution of agriculture and natural resources to the state's economy.

The state summary was not an exact summation of all parish reports because adjustments may occur due to changes in average prices received or to accommodate information from other sources.

In each parish table only commodities that were of commercial economic value in that parish this year were listed. In some instances, the number of producers or the number of acres in a parish were not available. An asterisk was used to avoid releasing confidential information when too few producers were present for that commodity. Within some commodity groups, such as grains, fruits and commercial vegetables, the total number of producers has been omitted because some producers grow several different crops within the group. Adding together the producers of individual crops would not give a true total for the group.

# Animal Enterprises

Gross farm income for all animal enterprises was more than \$2.19 billion for 2015, essentially unchanged from \$2.19 billion in 2014. The value added for animal enterprises was 1.03 billion, down from the 1.1 billion in 2014., down from \$1.1 billion in 2014. Total value of all animal enterprises in the Louisiana economy was \$3.21 billion, down 2 percent from \$3.28 billion in 2014.

## Beef Cattle

During 2015, the Louisiana beef cattle industry experienced an increase in cow numbers in most parishes as producers increased herd size last year in response to lower prices due to improved pasture and herd conditions throughout much of the country this past year, in contrast to the drought conditions and decline in herd size during the three years prior to last. In Louisiana, favorable growing conditions and declining prices helped beef cattle producers expand heard size. Louisiana cow numbers in 2015 totaled 455,549 and producers were reported at 11,920. Those were up from 433,050 cows and 7,379 producers reported in 2014.

The gross farm value of 236,453 steers sold in 2015 was \$285.9 million, an increase of \$35.1 million over the \$250.8 million reported in 2014. The gross farm value of 221,176 heifers sold increased by \$24.1 million as it rose from \$212 million in 2014 to \$236.1 million in 2015.

In 2015, 71,988 yearling cattle (600-800 pounds each) sold for \$96.5 million, a decrease of 700 head, but an increase of \$4.3 million from 2014 levels. The number of cow-calf pairs sold in 2015 decreased by approximately 1,800 pairs to 66,925. These pairs sold for \$133.9 million, down from \$139.2 million in 2014. Gross farm values of 53,612 cull cows and 7,652 cull bulls were \$79.7 million and \$17.2 million, respectively.

Gross farm income from beef cattle increased from \$795.3 million in 2014 to \$849.3 million in 2015. With value-added of \$106.1 million, the total value of beef cattle production in Louisiana was \$955.5 million in 2015, up \$60.7 million (7 percent) from \$894.8 million in 2014.

## Dairy

Milk production was reported by 12 parishes in 2015. Three parishes in the southeastern part of the state and two parishes in the northwestern part accounted for about 93 percent of the milk produced, number of herds and cows. The number of dairy farms declined from 121 in 2014 to 113 in 2015. The number of milking cows decreased from 14,118 head in 2014 to 13,335 head in 2015. Total milk production decreased from 197.1 million pounds in 2014 to 187.3 million pounds in 2015.

The on-farm value of milk decreased by \$15.7 million from \$52.3 million in 2014 to \$36.6 million in 2015. The decrease in the on farm value of milk in 2015 was due primarily to a lower average price per hundredweight of milk (\$26.55 per hundredweight in 2014, compared to \$19.55 per hundredweight in 2015) a 26 percent decrease in price per hundredweight. The lower price per hundredweight, in addition to the 5 percent reduction in milk production resulted in a decrease of 30 percent in gross farm value of milk in 2015.

Dairy goats were raised by 83 Louisiana producers in 2015. The 1,045 does milked in Louisiana during 2015 produced 2,094,621 pounds of goat milk, which sold for \$0.8 million, up substantially from 2014.

The value of cull cows, bred heifers, mature cows, breeding age bulls and calves was \$5.9 million. The total value of milk and animal sales to Louisiana dairy producers was \$43.3 million. Value-added contributed \$69.8 million more. The total economic contribution from dairying in Louisiana, including milk sales, animal sales and additional processing, was \$113.1 million in 2015, down substantially (26 percent) from \$153.2 million in 2014.

## Horses

The horse industry is an important component of the agricultural economy of Louisiana. In 2015, 140,556 horses were owned by an estimated 47,663 people, a 4 percent increase from the previous year. The horse industry has three sectors. Based on the gross farm value, that means the horse industry is made up of 55 percent racing, 15 percent show or competition horses and 30 percent recreational horse owners. By number of owners, however, the industry is approximately 10 percent racing, 20 percent show or competition and 70 percent recreational.

The state's racehorse industry in 2015 involved 1,673 breeders who owned 10,447 mares that produced 7,714 foals that sold for \$61.7 million. The 363 Louisiana breeders own 1,141 stallions that were bred to 8,514 mares, generating income from stud fees of \$21.3 million. The total gross farm income generated from racehorse production was \$83 million. An additional 2,792 racehorse owners had 12,244 racehorses in training or on the track in Louisiana, with a gross farm value of \$146.9 million. The gross farm value of the entire race sector (owners' and breeders' activities) of the horse industry in 2015 was \$229.9 million, not including receipts or fees from racing events or gaming.

The show and competition horse industry (horse shows, barrel racing, cutting, roping, team penning and others) includes 1,865 breeders who own 5,727 mares that produced 4,145 foals that sold for \$16.6 million during 2015. These 84 breeders owned 696 stallions that bred with 4,494 mares, generating \$6.7 million in income from stud fees. The total income generated from show and competition horse production was \$23.3 million. Another 7,012 owners competed on their 20,189 horses, which had a gross farm value of \$100.9 million. The total gross farm value of the show and competition sector of the horse industry was \$124.3 million in 2015.

A large portion of the horse industry, both in terms of owners and horses, is recreational. Horses have been used for comfort, exercise and enjoyment for quite some time. Approximately 10,416 of the recreational horse owners in Louisiana bred 24,324 mares and sold 17,134 foals during 2015 for \$25.7 million. These 262 recreational horse enthusiasts owned 3,136 stallions that were bred to 8,726 mares, generating income from stud fees of \$4.4 million. The total income from production in the recreational horse industry was \$30.1 million during 2015. Another 23,196 recreational horse owners have 57,396 horses valued at \$86.1 million – making the total economic contribution of the recreational horse industry \$116.2 million in 2015.

The 140,556 horses in Louisiana owned by 47,663 people had a gross farm value of \$470.3 million in 2015. Value-added contributed \$51.7 million, so that combining farm-gate value and the value-added, the total value of horse sector was \$522.1 million in 2015, a decrease of \$14 million from \$508.1 million the previous year.

The average horse owner spends about \$4,000 to \$6,000 annually on feed, tack, equipment, veterinary supplies and medicines. This results in an estimated expenditure of \$690 million on horses and a total economic effect of \$1.3 billion.

In addition to the value of horses produced and maintained in Louisiana, the activities of the horse industry generate a tremendous cash flow for the state. The four racetracks employ 3,000 people and generate expenditures of \$1.1 billion each year. The show and competition industry conducts an estimated 500 activities per year and generates \$200 million in expenditures. With the value of horses, expenditures on horses and the activities in which they engage, the economic effect of the horse industry is estimated at \$2.5 billion per year. This value coincides with a study by the American Horse Council that estimated the Louisiana horse industry generated \$2.45 billion per year for the state's economy.

## Poultry

### ***Broilers and Eggs***

Poultry production continues to generate the largest total value (farm gate plus value added) of any of the animal agricultural industries in Louisiana and is second only to forestry in total income produced for all agricultural commodities. In 2015, 402 Louisiana growers (small producers and commercial operations) produced 877.7 million pounds of broiler meat with a gross farm value of \$728.5 million. Commercial broilers are produced in 11 parishes: Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Sabine, Union, Vernon, Webster and Winn.

A total of 178 breeder flock producers in 2015 produced 19.8 million dozen eggs with a gross farm value of \$45.5 million. A total of 53 pullet producers produced 973,930 pullets with a gross farm value of \$11.9 million.

There were 686 edible egg producers (small producers and commercial operations) in Louisiana during 2015. Table egg production was 21.8 million dozen eggs, and the farm value for commercial egg production was \$29.9 million in 2015. Some 8.5 million pounds of cull hens sold in 2015 valued at \$1.4 million.

The gross farm value for all poultry production in Louisiana was \$817.3 million during 2015, a decrease from \$868.9 million in 2014. The value-added from poultry production to the Louisiana economy was estimated at \$796.9 million, making the total value of poultry production in Louisiana nearly \$1.6 billion in 2015, a decrease of 6 percent from 2014.

### ***Ratite and Other Exotic Fowl***

The sale of ratites and exotic fowl generated \$300 in gross farm sales in Louisiana during 2015 and total value of \$315.

## Quail

A total of 38,250 birds were produced during 2015 by 24 growers. Quail generated a gross farm value of \$114,750 in 2015. Value-added contributed nearly \$13,000, so the total value for quail in 2015 was \$127,373.

## Rabbits

The production of rabbits for meat and exhibition involved 394 Louisiana producers during 2015. The rabbit fryer industry produced nearly 93,000 pounds of meat in 2015. Louisiana rabbit producers generated \$156,602 in gross farm income. With value-added of \$16,443, the total value of rabbit production in Louisiana during 2015 was \$173,045.

## Sheep and Goats

Sheep, lambs and wool were produced by 363 producers in 30 Louisiana parishes during 2015, an increase from 208 producers during the previous year. The total number of lambs that were marketed (slaughter, feeder and club/show lambs) was estimated to be 4,657 in 2015, with a value of \$863,291, which was up considerably from 1,514 lambs in 2014 and up in value from \$299,261 in 2014. With a gross farm value of \$35,961, the 446 head of stocker sheep sold in 2015 represented a slight increase in animals but decrease in value from the previous year. The number of cull sheep sold in 2015 was 946, up from 901 in 2014. Cull sheep sold for \$35,961 in 2015. Wool production from 3,326 sheep was 21,765 pounds, up from 10,630 pounds in 2014. Total farm-gate value of sheep sales was \$0.96 million for 2015, up from \$0.7 million in 2014. Total 2015 value was \$1.1 million with value-added contributions included.

There were 10,806 goats raised by 827 farmers in 60 Louisiana parishes during 2015. The total number of slaughter goats marketed in 2015 was estimated to be 5,848, and valued at \$1.5 million, both increases from the previous year. Stocker goats sold in 2015 numbered at 2,799 and were valued at \$0.5 million, both slight increases from 2014. There were 1,987 cull goats marketed in 2015 at a value of \$0.3 million, both were slight increases from 2014. Goats sold as club or show goats numbered 1,481 head, valued at \$0.4 million, essentially unchanged from the previous year. Gross farm value of goats sold in Louisiana during 2015 was \$2.7 million, up from \$2.1 million in 2014. Total value of goat production in 2015 was \$3 million when value-added contributions were included.

## Swine

Louisiana pork producers numbered 371 in 2015, up from 211 in 2014. St. Martin, Calcasieu, Vermilion, Rapides and Beauregard parishes reported the largest numbers of swine producers.

The number of sows reported in 2015 was 5,225, up from 1,112 sows in 2014. A total of 2,905 show pigs sold for \$0.7 million, up from the previous year's totals. Feeder pig sales of 8,762 animals had a gross farm value of \$0.2 million in 2015, up in number, but a decrease in value from the previous year. Slaughter hog sales in 2015 involved 3,902 head with a gross farm value of \$0.5 million. This reflected a slight increase in number of hogs slaughtered, but a decrease in the value of sales from 2014 levels.

There were 1,661 cull animals (sows and boars) sold in 2015 valued at \$0.3 million, essentially unchanged in value from 2014.

The gross farm value of all classes of swine in 2015 was \$1.7 million, down slightly from 2014. The estimated value-added from the swine sector was \$0.2 million in 2015, so, with that added to the gross farm sales, the total value of all swine production in the state was \$1.9 million in 2015.

## Exotic Animals

Exotic animal producers of deer and llamas had gross farm sales of \$343,000 in 2015, up from \$65,400 during the previous year. Total value of production for exotic animals, including value added, was \$379,015 in 2015

## Fisheries and Wildlife Enterprises

Total farm value of all fisheries and wildlife enterprises during 2015 was \$837.6 million, up 14 percent from \$752.6 million in 2014. Value-added in 2015 was \$620.2 million, up from \$550.5 million the preceding year. Total value of all fisheries and wildlife enterprises to the Louisiana economy for 2015 was \$1.46 billion, up 12 percent from \$1.3 billion in 2014.

## Aquaculture

Louisiana has long been recognized for supporting one of the most diverse aquaculture industries in the United States. Species and products such as crawfish, catfish, alligators, oysters, tilapia, baitfish, soft-shelled crawfish and crabs, ornamental fish, baby turtles, a variety of freshwater game fish and other minor species all have been commercialized successfully.

Louisiana's producers continue to lead the nation in crawfish, oyster, pet turtle and alligator sales. As crawfish, catfish, oysters and alligators exhibited production increases during 2015, so did the overall gross farm value of Louisiana aquaculture, which increased by 11 percent compared to the previous year. This was largely due to an increase in farm-raised crawfish production and value during 2015.

Estimates from the field during 2015 indicate farm-raised crawfish production occupied 236,095 acres, an increase of 10,000 acres from the previous year. Farm-raised crawfish continued to be the state's most valuable aquaculture commodity by a wide margin, with a gross farm value of \$189.9 million in 2015. Production was depressed early in the season due to an unseasonably cold winter, but more favorable conditions later helped increase total production for the year.

Following several years of depressed prices and lower stocking rates, 2015 saw a continued upward trend in production with 1,276,184 feet sold, up roughly 1.5 percent from 2014. However, prices declined and so did farm-gate value in 2015. Farm-gate value of alligators was \$71.1 million, down from \$77.3 million in 2014.

Declines in catfish acreage and production continued in 2015. According to field estimates, Louisiana catfish acreage decreased from 523 acres of ponds in 2014 to 185 acres in 2015, with Louisiana producers selling slightly less than 1 million pounds of catfish valued at \$1 million.

Reported pet turtle hatchling production declined by 11 percent during 2015, with sales of approximately 3.53 million hatchlings at a gross farm value of \$3.5 million. Many turtle operations are not actively producing at this time, according to industry sources.

Louisiana's limited minnow industry had overall positive results in 2015 when compared to the prior year, with production and value up slightly, to \$584,700 for the year.

The oyster production information reported in this summary represents a one-year lag to avoid estimation and projection errors from using data for only part of the year (meaning figures for oysters reported this year are from 2014, not 2015). The reason for the lag is that information on oyster sales is compiled and provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the final compilation of the data is not available until the middle of the year following production.

Estimated oyster sales in 2014 of 1.65 million sacks, from a total of 1,332 producers, were \$58.2 million. These numbers represented increased production and in value (59 percent) from 2013. By comparison, in 2008 and 2009, prior to the Deepwater Horizon incident, sales were \$34.2 and \$50 million, respectively.

Summing up all aquaculture enterprises across the state resulted in \$326.2 million in gross farm sales for 2015, up 11 percent from the previous year. Value-added to aquaculture products was estimated to be \$220.2 million. Combining the two values resulted in a total value of \$546.4 million from commercial aquaculture to the state's economy for 2015.

## Fisheries

The harvest of freshwater and marine finfish and shellfish in Louisiana continues to contribute significantly to the state's economy. Fisheries landings are recorded by two government agencies. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries receives monthly reports from the initial buyers (processors, dealers, etc.) who are required to record every transaction. Species, weights and dockside sales values of the landings are reported for all commercially harvested species. The National Marine Fisheries Service also is responsible for estimating fisheries landings, using both regional National Marine Fisheries Service data collectors and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries reports. The information reported here is from those two cooperating sources. All these data are provisional and subject to change.

The freshwater fisheries and marine fisheries data presented in the report this year (2015) reflect the calendar year 2014. The one-year lag is necessary to ensure data accuracy. Real-time reports on fisheries landings are not available until four months after the fact, and final data often run six to seven months behind. Estimating landings for the second half of the year based on landings reports from the first half is inaccurate. This method of reporting fisheries landings data has been in place since the 2004 Louisiana Summary; data prior to that volume may not be directly comparable to the data reported since 2004 because of using the different estimation methods. To compare state-level landings for years prior to 2004, on a calendar-year basis, please consult the US-NOAA-NMFS website.

One final caveat is that parish totals for fisheries landings will not equal the state total because of legal confidentiality requirements. When fewer than three sources in a parish report landings of a fisheries commodity in that parish, the number of landings cannot be publicly released by the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the National Marine Fisheries Service without breaking confidentiality requirements. There may be parishes reported in this volume for which no landings or values were provided by either of those agencies but for which there was catch. Furthermore, fisheries landings are reported for the parish in which the fish are offloaded – not the parish in which the boat and its crew may be domiciled or the parish where the catches actually were made.

### **Freshwater Fisheries**

The freshwater finfish are primarily bowfin, catfish, buffalo, shad, gar and carp and typically are less valuable on a per-pound basis than marine finfish. Total freshwater finfish landings remained relatively unchanged from \$4.7 million for 11.9 million pounds caught by 1,329 commercial fishers in 2013 to \$5 million for 11.4 million pounds caught by 1,631 commercial fishers in 2014. While 2010 landings were influenced by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that year, as well as the negative perceptions associated with seafood and seafood safety from the Gulf region, the 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 landings and value appear to have rebounded and were above 2009 and 2010 levels.

Catfish are the mainstay of the more valuable freshwater species. The commercially caught catfish are not the same as farm-raised catfish described in the aquaculture section of this summary. Sales of catfish caught commercially in Louisiana waters were \$2 million on 4.3 million pounds in 2014, similar to 2013 levels.

Most wild crawfish are caught in the Atchafalaya Basin, where water levels fluctuate as inflows are controlled by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers at about one-third of the combined flows of the Mississippi and Red rivers. Although wild crawfish compete in the marketplace with farm-raised crawfish, some consumers prefer the wild product because of its often larger size. The volume of the wild crawfish harvest is almost completely constrained by the timing and duration of the annual winter/spring floodwater event in the Atchafalaya Basin. The 2014 crawfish season was down significantly from the landings from 2013. As a result, freshwater crawfish landings were down significantly from 17.1 million pounds in 2013 to 8 million pounds in 2014. For comparison, freshwater crawfish landings were 18.6 million pounds in 2009 and a record level of 50 million pounds in 1993. Wild crawfish sales were \$9.8 million in 2014, down significantly from \$14.3 million from the previous year.

Overall, landings from the freshwater fisheries sector in 2014 had a gross value of \$14.9 million. Value-added contributed \$13 million, so the freshwater fisheries sector contributed \$27.9 million to Louisiana's economy in 2014.

### **Marine Fisheries**

In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill had several effects on marine fisheries. Marine fisheries grounds were almost all reopened in 2011, and all marine fisheries saw an increase in landings in 2012 and 2011 compared to 2010. Landings in 2014 were down from 2013 levels. Marine finfish landings for food are varied and complex, with about 60 different species

being landed for a total of 8.6 million pounds in 2014, excluding menhaden. This was a 31 percent decrease from 2013, when 12.4 million pounds of marine food finfish were landed in Louisiana. Excluding menhaden, the five most-valued species landed in 2014, by decreasing value, were red snapper, yellowfin tuna, black drum, king mackerel and sharks. Total saltwater food finfish landings, excluding menhaden, were valued at \$14.3 million in 2014, down from \$19.2 million in 2013.

Landings of menhaden, a low-value but high-volume nonfood finfish species, were 678 million pounds in 2014, down from 849 million pounds in 2013. The catch was valued at \$74.6 million, down significantly from \$84.9 million in 2013. Menhaden value increased in 2014, with it selling for approximately 11 cents per pound compared to 10 cents per pound in 2013. Menhaden oil and meal are sold on the world market for industrial purposes, animal feeds and omega-3 dietary supplements, among other uses, and the prices received for menhaden products is a function of the world supply of oils and meals, particularly those produced by the fisheries for the anchovetta of the Pacific coast of South America.

Oysters increased slightly in value and landings in 2014 compared to 2013, and above 2010 and 2011 levels, years heavily affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and record-level flooding from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. In 2014, 10.7 million pounds of oysters were landed, 6 percent decrease from 11.34 million in 2013. This is still down from 14.7 million pounds of oysters harvested in 2009. The price in 2014 was approximately \$5.44 per pound of oyster meat. To calculate prices per sack, assume 6.47 pounds of shucked oyster meat per sack (\$35.18 per sack). According to US-NOAA-NMFS, the gross value of oysters harvested during 2014 was \$58.2 million – up from 2012 and above \$50 million in 2009.

Blue crabs constitute nearly all of the Louisiana crab harvest, with stone crab claws making up less than 0.01 percent. Louisiana hard crab landings normally range from 40 to 50 million pounds. Hard-shelled blue crab landings were 39 million pounds with a gross value of \$60.4 million in 2014. This was a slight increase from 38.8 million pounds in 2013, but an 18 percent increase in value of \$51 million in 2013. This was also lower than when fishers harvested 51 million pounds in 2009 or the 43.8 million pounds in 2008, when two hurricanes caused damage to gear and infrastructure.

Louisiana shrimp landings in 2014 consisted of six species: white shrimp, brown shrimp, sea bobs, rock shrimp, pink shrimp and royal red shrimp. White shrimp historically have provided 50-60 percent of the harvest by weight and around 70 percent by value. The weighted-average price for shrimp was \$2.08 in 2014, up from \$1.81 in 2013. Total shrimp landings in 2014 were 111.3 million pounds, an increase from 2013 when 96.8 million pounds were harvested. By comparison, 101.7 million pounds of shrimp were harvested in 2012, 90.5 million pounds were harvested in 2011, 74.2 million pounds of shrimp were harvested in 2010, 114 million pounds in 2009, 89.7 million pounds in 2008 and 109.5 million pounds in 2007. Shrimp landed in Louisiana had a gross value of \$232.6 million in 2014, up from 2010 through 2013.

In 2014, marine fisheries landings in Louisiana were valued at \$381.9 million at dockside, up from \$328.7 million in 2013. Value-added for marine fisheries was estimated to be \$372.4 million in 2014. That means the total

value of all marine fisheries, including value-added, in 2014 was estimated to be \$754.3 million to the state's economy.

## Fur

The 2014-2015 harvest of fur animal pelts had a gross farm value of \$89,158, significantly lower than \$371,691 in 2013-2014. This value represents fur production only and excludes any value associated with meat production, predominately from raccoon and nutria carcasses.

Animals pelted and sold in 2014-2015 totaled 9,070, which represented a decrease from the 41,391 pelts taken the previous year. Pelt prices among all fur bearers were slightly lower than last year's average prices, but the significantly lower number of pelts taken greatly decreased the total value of the fur industry in Louisiana. During the 2014-2015 trapping season, the gross farm value for all furs taken was nearly \$280,000 less than what was reported the previous year. The average price paid for a single pelt taken during the 2014-2015 trapping season was \$8.93, down from \$8.98 the preceding year. This varied from a low of less than one dollar paid for an opossum pelt to a high of \$43 paid for the pelt of a bobcat.

Nutria removals in 2014-2015 associated with the coastal-wide nutria control program accounted for 341,708 animals being taken. This number is down from the 388,264 taken during the 2013-2014 period. The incentive payment for these removals was \$5 each. The total number and value of all animals removed, including the nutria taken under the control program, was 350,497 individuals with a total value of more than \$1.75 million. Excluding the nutria removed under the coastal-wide nutria control program that were not pelted and sold, the value-added components raised the total value of furs sold in Louisiana during the 2014-2015 trapping season to \$111,448.

## Hunting Lease Enterprises

The value of recreational hunting in Louisiana is estimated by the income derived from hunting lease enterprises. The number of producers who leased land in the state during the 2014-2015 hunting season was 5,966. This figure consists of 4,497 individuals who leased land for upland game hunting (predominately for deer and turkey) and 1,469 individuals who leased land for waterfowl hunting. These numbers are up slightly from the previous year.

Land leased for hunting in 2014-2015 amounted to 6.36 million acres for upland game and 1.89 million acres for waterfowl, up slightly from the previous year. Gross farm value for leases was \$63.1 million for upland game and \$35.6 million for waterfowl, up slightly from the preceding year for upland game and for waterfowl.

The change in gross farm value for hunting leases was caused by a slight increase in the average lease rates for upland game (\$9.91 per acre), while leases for waterfowl were \$18.83 per acre. Waterfowl leases averaged \$15 per acre in the coastal areas of the state and \$30 per acre in other areas. Prices per leased acre and the total number of acres leased for both upland game and waterfowl remained similar to those figures recorded during the previous year. Leasing rates varied greatly throughout the state from lows of \$1 to highs of \$35 per acre for upland game leases. In all

hunting lease enterprises, rates were dependent on location, habitat quality and species involved. A high demand for a good hunting lease will many times bring prices greater than its market value.

With gross farm value of around \$98.7 million and value-added \$8.4 million, total value of hunting leases in the state was \$107.1 million during the 2014-2015 hunting season.

## **Honey**

Honey production in 2015 was 4.3 million pounds, up significantly from 1.7 million pounds collected in 2014. Favorable spring weather increased nectar flow and honey production in 2015.

Honey prices in 2015 averaged \$1.80 to \$2.00 per pound in Louisiana. Assuming demand remains strong for domestically produced honey, prices should remain strong through 2016. Total production of 4.3 million pounds of honey by an estimated 558 beekeepers in Louisiana in 2015 was up from 1.7 million pounds in 2014, and an increase from 446 beekeepers in 2014. The number of hives increased in the state, from 21,726 in 2014 to 43,792 in 2015.

Commercial and hobby beekeepers have continued to develop a large local and statewide clientele – with some having to buy honey to meet demands. This increase in purchasing of local honey from beekeepers and in local stores (rather than buying commercial brands) has greatly improved the sales and value of Louisiana honey. It has expanded from stores and bakeries to restaurants, coffee houses and out-of-state markets. In many local markets, clientele have increased demand for local or state honey, and storekeepers say local honeys are popular.

Pollination services provided by honeybees continue to be a valuable commodity for Louisiana crops. Some have estimated these pollination services are valued at millions of dollars annually. These services include pollination of many vegetables, fruits, nuts, flowers, grasses and other plants that feed wildlife, livestock and people, and the services come in commercial production, home gardens and wild settings. Such values are not included in these estimates of honeybee value.

The gross farm value of honey production in Louisiana increased from \$3.8 million in 2014 to \$8.3 million in 2015. Value-added from cleaning, processing, supplies, packaging and local sales in 2015 was \$2.1 million, so the total value of honey production for 2015 was \$10.4 million.

# Plant Enterprises

The gross farm value of all plant enterprises was more than \$3.48 billion in 2015, a decrease of 15 percent from \$4.09 billion in 2014. Value-added was \$3.82 billion for all plant commodities during 2015, up from \$3.66 billion in 2014. Total value of all plant or crop enterprises to the Louisiana economy was \$7.3 billion in 2015, down 6 percent from \$7.75 billion in 2014.

## Cotton

Land planted and harvested in cotton in 2015 was 108,505 acres, down 34 percent from 164,132 acres harvested in 2014. From 2000 to 2006, cotton acres ranged between 500,000 and 850,000 acres annually. Since 2007, cotton acres have ranged from 124,000 to 320,000 acres annually. This significant decline in acreage is anticipated to continue in 2016. The level of harvested acreage in 2015 was the lowest ever recorded in the state of Louisiana. In 2015, there were 36,592 acres of irrigated cotton harvested, down from 2014 when there were 53,718 acres of irrigated cotton harvested. Non-irrigated acreage in 2015 was 72,913, down from 110,414 acres of non-irrigated cotton harvested in 2014.

Lint yields per acre for 2015 were the down sharply from record yields the past two years in Louisiana. Cotton lint yield on irrigated land was 933 pounds per acre in 2015, compared to 1,322 pounds per acre in 2014 and 1,321 pounds per acre in 2013. Non-irrigated lint yields in 2015 were 778 pounds per harvested acre, down sharply when compared to 1,131 pounds of lint per acre in 2014, and 1,194 pounds of cotton lint per acre in 2013. The number of producers in 2015 was 259, continuing the downward trend over the past few years when 2014 had 282 producers, and there were 287 producers in 2013 and 415 producers in 2012. Lint production in 2015 was 34.1 million pounds on irrigated land, while 56.8 million pounds were produced on non-irrigated land, bringing total lint production to 90.9 million pounds or 189,367 bales in 2015.

Gross farm value of cotton lint sales was \$56.4 million in 2015, with \$21.2 million from lint harvested on irrigated land and \$35.2 million from sales of lint harvested from non-irrigated land. Sales of cotton seed contributed an additional \$16 million. Gross farm value of all cotton sales was \$72.4 million, with value-added contributing \$18.1 million, so that total value of cotton production in 2015 was \$90.4 million.

## Feed Grains

In 2015, 467,029 acres of feed grains were harvested in the state, down from 495,298 acres of feed grains harvested in 2014. The planted and harvested area for feed grains declined due to lower prices that continued from 2014. Those prices in 2014 and 2015 declined considerably from historically high levels most of 2013.

With a wet spring and early summer followed by widespread in July and August, yields for all feed grain commodities were reduced in 2015 from the previous year. Gross farm value of all feed grains in Louisiana was \$275.3 million, down 18 percent from \$337.3 million in 2014. Value-added for feed grains was estimated to be \$48.2 million in 2015, so the total value, including both gross farm value and value-added, of feed grain production in

Louisiana for the year was \$323.5 million, down considerably (18 percent) from 2014.

### **Corn**

Corn was grown on 1,140 Louisiana farms in 2015, down from 1,157 farms in 2014. The statewide average yield was 172 bushels per acre in 2015, down from the near the record set last year of 182 bushels per acre. There were 391,044 acres of corn harvested in 2015, down by roughly 4,000 acres from 395,279 acres of corn harvested in 2014.

Gross farm value of corn production in 2015 was \$249.2 million, down from the 2014 value of \$298.1 million. This decline in value of corn production in the state was due to a combination of decreased harvested acres, lower average yield and lower grain prices, which adversely affected the gross value.

### **Grain Sorghum**

Grain sorghum followed a similar pattern to corn in that acreage, yield and prices were lower in 2015 than in 2014. Overall production decreased compared to 2015 due to fewer acres being harvested for sorghum – 72,459 acres harvested in 2015 versus 95,735 acres harvested in 2014. Fewer producers (267) grew sorghum in 2015 than those (504) who harvested sorghum in 2014. Furthermore, yields in 2015 at 48 hundredweight per harvested acre were lower than yields of 53.5 hundredweight per acre in 2014. As a result, overall sorghum production in 2015 (3.5 million hundredweight) was lower than 2014 (5.1 million hundredweight). Despite dry conditions in select areas of the state early in the growing season, growing and harvesting conditions were favorable in 2015 throughout much of the sorghum growing areas of Louisiana.

Gross farm value of sorghum production was \$25.4 million in 2015, down substantially from \$37.9 million in 2014, due to lower farm-gate prices for grain sorghum, lower production and fewer acres harvested.

### **Oats**

Oat production was lower in 2015, due in large part to a decrease in acreage levels. During 2015, Louisiana producers harvested 3,526 acres, down from 4,284 in 2014. Oat yields in 2015 were 76 bushels per acre, down from 2014 levels of 86 bushels per acre. Gross farm value of oat production was \$0.7 million in 2015, up from \$1.3 million in 2014.

## **Forestry**

The projected Louisiana gross farm value of forest products increased by 3.29 percent during the 2015 year over calendar year from 2014, ending the year at \$996.5 million dollars in mill delivered revenue. The pine saw-timber harvest increased by 11 percent from the prior year and posted a total statewide harvest of approximately 937.6 million board feet during 2015. The hardwood saw-timber harvest increased as well during 2015, a 10 percent increase to 114.8 million board feet. Pine chip-and-saw harvested during 2015 totaled 902,820 cords, an increase of approximately 12 percent from 2014 levels (the second consecutive year of double digit growth).

The pulpwood harvest was 6.1 million cords, down slightly 290,000 cords (5 percent) from the 2014 harvest. Pine pulpwood harvest

decreased 9 percent, from 5.5 million cords during 2014 to 5.07 million cords in 2015. Hardwood pulpwood harvest increased by 23 percent, from 841,000 cords in 2014 to 1.04 million cords in 2015.

Stumpage prices paid for pine saw-timber during 2015 averaged \$28.50 per ton. This average represents approximately a 3 percent increase from the previous year (\$27.75 per ton). Prices paid for mixed hardwood saw-timber during 2015 averaged \$33.50 per ton, which is a 2 percent increase from the previous year (\$32.75 per ton).

Pulpwood stumpage prices averaged \$10 per ton per for pine, down one dollar from the previous year, while hardwood pulpwood averaged \$12 per ton, also a decrease of one dollar from the previous years' average. Pine Chip-N-Saw averaged \$18 per ton in 2015, which was up 75 cents from the previous year. In general, delivered prices were up across several timber products over the period reported, except for pulpwood products, which were both down from the prior year.

It must be noted that individual landowners should not look at Timber Mart South Prices as an indication of what they will get for timber sold on their land, but rather as a gauge to judge price trends and directions. Timber owners should also consult Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry for their price report and work with a consulting forester who can help them best gauge the market for their timber as the prices received for individual tracts varies considerably depending on local conditions.

During the year, Louisiana's private forest landowners received an estimated \$465 million from the sale of forest timber (stumpage), up 3.5 percent from the \$449 million in the previous year. Timber harvesting contractors and their employees earned approximately \$531 million from harvesting the trees and moving wood to mills during 2015, an increase of 3.13 percent from \$515 million in 2014.

As for predictions, more of the same from the prior three years. Slow but upward growth in prices across all products, though there will likely be mostly flat prices in 2016. Look for pine saw timber prices to trade sideways this year. There will be seasonal fluctuations but do not expect any meaningful gains due in large part to oversupply remaining and a steady but still sluggish housing market in the U.S. Fluctuations in pine sawtimber and chip-n-saw prices will mimic housing starts, trend upward in the first half of the year, peak in late summer or early fall 2016, and trend down in winter 2016-2017. Although prices will still trend upward slightly, it will likely be 2018 before we see \$30 per ton pine sawtimber. Seasonal fluctuations will occur, but do not expect meaningful gains due in large part to oversupply remaining and a steady but slow uptick in the U.S. housing market dominated by multifamily dwellings. Overall, Forisk projects 2016 housing starts of 1.26 million, up 13.7% from 2015 so the improvements continue.

Pine pulpwood prices are forecast to increase in-state over the next several years and around the south in the coming year. In-state those gains will likely be postponed until 2017. While harvesting is projected to be up several percent, there was a lull in harvesting last year. Extremely high mill inventories along with mill consumption reductions and mild weather conditions, resulting in an over-supply situation. Also, German Pellets at Urania, LA down and in Chapter 11 bankruptcy will postpone or mothball altogether any pulpwood going to that facility for the foreseeable future.

Further, an abundance of pine plantations is to be thinned. Nonetheless, pine pulpwood prices are forecast to increase in-state and around the south in the coming year, \$12 by 2018.

Hardwood saw timber and pulpwood demand will move upward. As for prices, hardwood sawtimber looks to be the mover given the demand/supply relationships; Louisiana has a low growth-to-removal ratio for the product, and the demand forecasts for 2016 are in the high teens. Hardwood pulpwood demand may take slight dips, until the oil and gas industry in Texas and Louisiana find more solid footing.

Given the last two years of stumpage prices, those in the forestry sector had much to feel good about in the short term and going forward into 2016. Despite the fact that rentals remain too large a percentage of housing starts at 35 percent of all starts, rental rates indicate that they will not subside anytime soon. However, as wages in some sectors increase and employment continues its slow-but-steady improvement, home ownership will likely increase at a lukewarm pace.

For predictions and outlook for 2016, please see the special edition "Stumpage Speak 2016 Outlook" document that is available online at the LSU AgCenter website on the "Stumpage Speak" blog <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/blogs/stumpagespeak> or contact your area forester for a copy.

The general trends are still encouraging for timber owners and timber professionals. Sawtimber prices have recovered since 2010, due in large part to export markets (one reason why this year will be flat as our strong dollar is working against us given relative exchange rates) and a slow-but-improving housing market. Heading into 2016-2017, the housing market should continue to recover at a steady, gradual pace. Home builders in many markets across the country have seen their businesses improve over the course of the year, and builders remain confident in 2016.

Like GDP, housing was below expectations as originally forecast, a common theme over the past several years. Although unemployment was down (some overly optimistic accounting), wages are stagnant. This indicates that many of the systemic problems present since the 2008-2010 recession are still present, and market participants remain uncertain about the future. This is why we've seen an improving but tepid economy. This is expected to continue to affect wood prices, until we see some of the overcapacity in the forest and under capacity at the mill tighten, but that is still five to 10 years away.

Gross farm value of the entire forest sector in Louisiana was valued at \$997.3 million. When value-added of \$3 billion was included, the resulting total value of the forest sector in Louisiana for 2015 was \$4 billion, an increase of \$474.6 million or 14 percent over 2014 values.

## Fruit Crops

Louisiana's commercial fruit production is diverse, ranging from berries, citrus and peaches to muscadine grapes and mayhaws, among others. In 2015, commercial fruit crops were raised by more than 1,000 producers. Gross farm value for commercial fruit production was \$36.5 million in 2015, up 26 percent from \$28.9 million in 2014, due to strong prices received by producers, particularly for citrus and strawberries. Value-added contributed \$12.8 million to the total value of fruit production of \$49.2 million in 2015, up 26 percent from 2014.

## **Blackberries**

Gross farm value of blackberries increased during 2015 and was \$2.7 million, up from \$2.3 million during 2014. During the past year, the number of commercial blackberry producers was 124, and they cultivated 142 acres of blackberries in 2015, up from 2014. Average production was down slightly, from 5,698 pints of blackberries per acre during 2014 to 5,485 pints for 2015. Overall production was up, as well, in 2015, going from 587,158 pints during 2014 to 778,800 pints in 2015. With stable prices, increased production contributed to the increase in gross farm value.

## **Blueberries**

In 2015, blueberries were grown commercially by 170 producers on 523 acres, up significantly from 2014. Blueberries yielded, on average, 4,663 pints per acre for producers in 2015, down from 2014 levels. These conditions resulted in total production remaining increasing to 2.4 million pints in 2015. Gross farm value of blueberries during 2015 was \$10 million, up from \$5.1 million in 2014, primarily due to increased production by commercial blueberry producers in Louisiana.

## **Citrus**

The Louisiana citrus industry in 2015 involved growers in 22 parishes, up from 2014. Producers harvested 1,074 acres of citrus, up from 799 acres of citrus during 2014, and up from 744 acres of citrus in 2013. The citrus industry continues to recover from flooding associated with Hurricane Isaac in 2012 that caused extensive damage or destroyed orchards in Plaquemines Parish, in particular.

Citrus production and harvesting of fruit occurred on 361 acres of navels, 663 acres of satsumas and 50 acres of other types of citrus (lemons, grapefruit and kumquats, among others). Despite damage caused by Hurricane Isaac, Plaquemines Parish remained the leading producer of citrus in Louisiana.

Although some citrus is sold through traditional marketing channels, the majority of Louisiana citrus is sold by direct marketing at roadside stands and farmers markets. Peddlers buy citrus on the farms and sell it again across the state, while some growers deliver citrus to grocery store warehouses, individual grocery stores and fruit stands.

Satsumas were grown by 229 producers on 663 acres during 2015, up slightly from 2014. Total satsuma production was 252,653 bushels in 2015, up from 199,089 bushels in 2014. Value of satsuma sales in 2015 was \$5.6 million, up from 2014 was \$5.4 million, due primarily to increased production. Navel oranges were grown by 162 producers on 361 acres, with 127,733 bushels harvested and sold. Gross farm value of navel orange sales was \$3 million in 2015, up from \$1.9 million in 2014. The gross farm value of all citrus production in Louisiana in 2015 was \$8.7 million, up from \$7.5 million for 2014.

## **Mayhaws**

The gross farm value for mayhaws was \$3.2 million in 2015, somewhat higher than 2014. Orchard and native mayhaw trees produced approximately 960,400 and 636,120 pounds respectively for a total production in 2015 of 1.6 million pounds, an increase in total production from 2014. Production, centered in Grant Parish, occurred on 459 acres statewide in 2015 and averaged 3,478 pounds per acre of native and orchard production.

### **Miscellaneous Fruit**

Many miscellaneous fruits were planted as small commercial plantings or as backyard plantings. These crops included figs, grapes, pears, plums, apples and persimmons. These fruits were planted on 165 acres and had estimated gross farm value of \$2.5 million in 2015.

### **Muscadines**

Reports concerning muscadine production were divided into fresh fruit production and commercial production. The total gross farm value of all muscadine production in 2015 was \$1.5 million.

Muscadines were grown for fresh fruit on 132 acres by 87 growers who produced 233,360 gallons of grapes in Louisiana during 2015. The fruit usually was sold at \$4 to \$10 per gallon, with an average of \$6 per gallon. The lower prices generally were used at U-pick operations.

Production for juice and wine was considered commercial muscadine production. Muscadines grown for wine production are concentrated in East Feliciana Parish, and Louisiana produced 585 tons of commercial muscadines on 117 acres in 2015.

### **Peaches**

Gross farm value of peaches during 2015 was \$1.8 million, up from \$0.9 million in 2014. Peaches were grown on 357 acres by 106 commercial and backyard producers and yielded 42,855 bushels during 2015, up from previous year.

### **Strawberries**

In 2015, the Louisiana strawberry industry involved 87 growers who produced berries on 377 acres for a gross farm value of \$15.4 million. This was down in value since producers harvested about the same number of acres, which resulted in similar total production, but was lower because of weaker prices for berries harvested. Tangipahoa Parish continued being the leading strawberry-producing parish in the state.

The majority of the Louisiana strawberries were sold commercially. Growers delivered berries to grocery store warehouses, individual grocery stores and fruit stands. The remaining portion of the crop was sold at farmers markets and roadside stands.

Louisiana strawberries were available as early as November, December and January. This was due to the use of the variety Strawberry Festival, plug plants from nurseries in Quebec, Canada, row covers and wire hoops. These early berries brought premium prices and played a large part in the high returns for the crop in Louisiana.

## **Commercial Greenhouse Vegetables**

During 2015, 20 parishes had farms commercially growing greenhouse vegetables in 169,700 square feet of greenhouse space, similar to the greenhouse space used in 2014. As in the past, most production (90 percent) was devoted to tomatoes during 2015, with some greenhouse space devoted to cucumbers and lettuce. All of the greenhouse produce was sold on the fresh market, much of it direct-retail at local markets. Energy costs, which became a major cost of production during the winter of 2009, continued to affect production decisions over the past few years, though temporary declines in energy costs during this past year were welcomed by producers in the industry.

The estimated gross farm value of Louisiana greenhouse vegetables was \$2.1 million in 2015, down slightly from 2014 levels. Total value of greenhouse produce, including value-added, was \$2.8 million for 2015, a decrease of \$325,000 over 2014 levels.

## **Hay Sold**

Hay production for commercial sales is a limited part of the total hay production in Louisiana. Nevertheless, hay produced from 407 acres of alfalfa and 407,020 acres of grasslands was sold by 3,329 producers in 2015. Yields averaged 2.6 tons per acre from the grasslands harvested for sale and 4.65 tons per acre from the alfalfa harvested for sale. Production included 1.07 million tons of grass hay and 1,891 tons of alfalfa hay. Compared to numbers reported in 20134, the acreage of grasslands used for commercial hay production remained relatively unchanged. Yields on grassland hay were slightly lower between the two years. As a result, the total production of the 2015 hay crop for sale was slightly lower than that of the 2014 crop.

Weather conditions were variable across the state in 2015. Many of the southern parishes were abnormally wet during the summer, while dry weather conditions persisted throughout much of northern part of the state during the spring and summer months. Fall weather conditions were generally favorable for hay production across the state.

Gross farm value of all hay sales, including some minor alfalfa production, was \$137.8 million, which was lower by about \$8 million than the 2014 hay crop. Total value of hay production, including value-added, was \$171.2 million for 2014.

Hay for all noncommercial purposes was grown on 475,000 acres and produced 2.6 tons per acre for a total production of 1.24 million tons.

## **Home Vegetable Gardens**

Parish reports indicate there were an estimated 628,747 home gardens statewide during 2015. This number was up from 2014 and higher than in previous years due to a change in the method used to estimate the number of home gardens, which started in 2011. This revised method used a formula based on research conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that indicated approximately one in three households have some kind of garden, including backyard fruit trees, vegetable plots, berry patches, etc. As a result of that research, the number of gardens was adjusted in some parishes to more accurately reflect this range of home garden production.

Nonetheless, the number of home gardens in any given year fluctuates greatly with people's interest and the economy. When economic conditions are weak, as have existed for the past few years, the number of households using home gardens increases. Vegetable gardening is not only a hobby but also extends the family budget by freeing up limited funds for other food purchases.

A survey of Louisiana home gardeners in 2008 showed the average age of gardeners was 62 years, with a median age of 67 years. The median Louisiana garden size was 800 square feet and was calculated to generate produce valued at \$525 per garden. This value, which has been adjusted for inflation since 2008, was used to calculate the gross farm value of home gardens in Louisiana.

The 2015 gross farm value of home vegetable gardens in Louisiana was estimated to be \$330.1 million.

## Nursery Crops

The commercial nursery industry in Louisiana consists of fruit and nut tree nursery stock production, foliage plants, woody ornamentals and floriculture and bedding plants. Commercial nursery crop production in Louisiana had a gross farm value of \$103.1 million in 2015. This was down approximately 5 percent from 2014. Wholesale nursery sales in Louisiana have improved over the past three years, and spring sales in 2015 were strong, but under-performed 2014 levels slightly.

Wholesale production was \$4.1 million for the growers of fruit and nut tree nursery stock in 2015. This category, consisting of citrus, blueberries and figs, among others, had been up 10 to 20 percent annually the past three years, but was down 20 percent from 2014 levels. Bedding plant and floriculture crop production was \$34.2 million in farm-gate sales in 2015, down about \$2.5 million from 2014. The largest segment of the nursery industry continues to be woody ornamentals, primarily trees and shrubs. At the wholesale level, woody ornamental growers sold products worth \$63.6 million during 2015, down slightly from 2014. Wholesale production of foliage plants increased somewhat from 2014 and accounted for \$1.3 million in sales in 2015.

Including value-added of \$56.7 million, the total value of the Louisiana nursery industry at the wholesale level was \$159.8 million in 2015.

## Peanuts

During 2015, 804 acres of peanuts were harvested, which was down from 1,188 acres in 2014. Production of peanuts decreased from 4.8 million pounds in 2014 to 3.3 million pounds of peanuts sold for commercial processing in 2015. Gross farm value of peanuts in 2015 was approximately \$0.7 million, down from \$1.1 million in 2014. Value-added of approximately \$104,000, when combined with gross farm value, resulted in \$0.8 million in total value for Louisiana peanut production during 2015.

## Pecans

Input from growers, LSU AgCenter agents and accumulators estimated the final pecan crop at 5 million pounds. The 2015 crop is forecast to consist of 2.1 million pounds of improved pecans and 2.9 million pounds of native pecans.

Wholesale prices in Louisiana were highly variable, with natives ranging from \$0.45 to \$1.25 per pound, while improved pecans ranged from \$1.40 to \$1.90 per pound. The variability on prices was due to quality, location, time of sale, and quantity of pecans sold. Early in the season the price for native pecans was low, ranging from \$0.45 to \$0.70 per pound, but the price rebounded at the end of the season with some growers receiving \$1.00 per pound for their crop. In March, 2016, the USDA estimated that the average 2015 price for improved varieties was \$1.71 and for native pecans, \$1.00 per pound. Using the prices estimated by the USDA, the gross farm value of pecans in Louisiana would be approximately \$3.6 million of improved pecans and \$2.9 million of native pecans, for a total gross farm value for pecans of \$6.5 million in 2015.

Native trees accounted for the majority (78 percent) of the production in Louisiana from 2004 to 2013. Native production was on this year, however, accounting for 58 percent of total production in 2015. The 2015 pecan crop in Louisiana was an “off-year” crop because of the alternate bearing nature of pecan production. It is yet to be seen what effects other nut commodity prices will have on pecan demand in 2016. The prices of almonds, pistachios and walnuts currently are near historic high levels. Such high prices may lead consumers, retailers and food manufacturers purchasing those nuts to switch to pecans, which are currently competitively priced with almonds and cheaper than pistachios and walnuts. Pecan nut consumption has rebounded from decreases due to the record high prices a couple of years ago and should continue in a positive direction.

The gross farm value of Louisiana pecans was estimated to be \$6.5 million in 2015, down considerably from the \$17.4 million for 2014. Total value of pecan production, including value-added, was estimated to be \$8.4 million for 2015.

## Rice

Rice acreage in Louisiana fell from 449,362 acres in 2014 to 414,185 acres in 2015. The Louisiana crop was made up of approximately 83 percent long, 15 percent medium and 2 percent special-purpose rice varieties and hybrids. The varieties ‘CL111’ and ‘Jupiter’ were the predominant long and medium grain varieties grown in Louisiana in 2015.

The 2015 rice season began with frequent and significant rainfall events, which occurred during the first three months. There was a very short window where the soil was dry enough to dry plant rice, which occurred during the last full week in March. Most producers in south Louisiana scrambled to plant as much as they could during this brief window. The wet weather reduced drill-seeded acres and increased dry broadcast and water seeded acres. The frequent rainfall events caused many early season problems including a lot of less than adequate stands which had to be replanted. The cool March also slowed the early season growth and development. Another problem with the early season rainfall was that many pre-flood nitrogen fertilizer applications had to be made on wet ground which reduced the efficiency of the fertilizer applications.

Disease and insect pressure was slightly lower than normal in 2015. The lone exception was blast. A very high leaf blast incidence was observed throughout Louisiana in the medium grain variety Jupiter. The leaf blast pressure was so great, that many producers opted to make two fungicide applications. However, the incidence of rotten neck blast in Jupiter later in the season was not as prolific.

The last quarter of the season was dry, and the day and nighttime temperatures neared and sometimes exceeded what we would like to see during flowering and grain fill. The dry conditions allowed for ideal conditions for harvest. The average yield in 2015 was 6,960 pounds per acre, well below the 7,539 pounds per acre observed in 2014.

The 2015 Louisiana rice crop was harvested by 1,024 producers. The gross farm value of the state’s rice crop was \$361.5 million for 2015, \$154.2 million (30 percent) less than the year before. The lower acreage, combined with lower yields, accounted for the significant decrease in

overall farm-gate value in 2015. Value-added of \$120.4 million, when combined with farm-gate value, brought the total value of rice production in Louisiana to \$481.9 million.

## Sod and Turfgrass Production

During 2015, sod was produced by 22 Louisiana sod farmers on 3,485 acres of fine turfgrasses, compared with 3,515 acres harvest in 2014. About 60 percent of the turf sod acreage in Louisiana is centipedegrass and about one-third is St. Augustinegrass. The remaining acreage is divided among hybrid bermudagrass and zoysiagrass. However, zoysiagrass acres are increasing on sod farms.

Construction remained steady in 2015 which may have influenced producers to maintain sod acreage in 2015. Shipping costs are always a major component in the eventual cost of sod. Growers enjoyed sustained, reduced shipping costs in 2015, especially during the late summer and fall months. Lower fuel costs increase overall profit margins and should help the industry in 2016. However, lower transportation costs may also increase competition from out-of-state sod farms. Due to increased demand for zoysiagrass and its higher price point, several sod producers are increasing acres of this particular sod species in 2016.

Gross farm value of sod and turfgrass sales in 2015 was estimated to be \$17.4 million. Value-added for turfgrass production was \$13.1 million, so the total value of sod and turfgrass production in Louisiana during 2015 was \$30.5 million, down 1 percent from 2014.

## Soybeans

The soybean yield of 41 bushels per acre in 2015, down considerably from the record-breaking yield for Louisiana the preceding year. Soybeans were harvested from more than 1.4 million acres by 2,523 producers during 2015. This was essentially unchanged from 1.4 million acres in 2014. Statewide production of soybeans 57.6 million bushels in 2015, down considerably from 79.6 million bushels in 2014.

Yields were lower in 2015, due to less than ideal growing conditions through some of the grain filling stages of development. Wet conditions were reported in some areas of the state early in the planting season, which reduced soybean yields and prevented some acreage from being planted, and other areas had wet conditions that delayed planting.

Overall, producers statewide were able to plant early, which coincided with optimum planting periods. The usual weed, disease and insect problems were present during 2015, but because of the good conditions early in the growing season, insect and disease pressure were mild to moderate until late in the season. Low temperatures during winter resulted in decreased red banded stink bug numbers and little Asian soybean rust. Asian soybean rust continues to be a threat in Louisiana, although its presence so far has not resulted in major yield losses. Excellent weather conditions and timely rains for most of the state and favorable conditions during harvest contributed to the state's record yield.

Gross farm value of soybeans in Louisiana was \$546.6 million for 2015, a 45 percent decrease from the \$988.1 million in 2014. Value-added from cleaning and processing soybeans in Louisiana contributed \$95.7 million and resulted in \$642.3 million in total economic contributions to the state's economy from soybeans.

## Sugarcane

In 2015, sugarcane was grown on 410,553 acres in 23 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 385,902 acres were available for harvest for sugar, assuming that approximately 6.5 percent of the total acres were used for seed cane.

The 11 operating raw sugar factories in the state processed 12,756,471 tons of cane, which was very close to the amount processed in 2014. In total, the 11 factories produced 1.403 million short tons of sugar (96° pol). The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 33.2 tons per acre. The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 10.83 percent or 217 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane; this was a decrease of 15 pounds of sugar per ton of cane compared to the 2014 crop. The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per acre harvested for sugar was approximately 7,282 pounds in 2015. The 2012 crop had the highest recoverable sugar per acre of any sugarcane crop ever grown in Louisiana when production was recorded at 8,412 pounds of sugar per harvested acre.

Although the pricing period is not completed for the 2015 crop, the average predicted value for raw sugar for 2015 is \$0.245 per pound. Molasses prices have remained high at an average of \$115 per short ton at 79.5 Brix.

The gross farm value of the 2015 sugarcane crop was \$450.2 million for sugar and molasses. The gross farm value represents 60 percent of the value of the sugar and 50 percent of the value of molasses produced. The remaining percentages are for processing and marketing, which amounted to \$312.4 million. Therefore, the total value of the sugarcane crop to Louisiana producers, processors and landlords at the first processing level was \$762.6 million.

The 2015 sugarcane crop got off to a good start. Late winter (January and February) temperatures were above normal, and spring temperatures (March through May) were above normal. Rainfall was above normal during this same time frame (data from the Baton Rouge airport). The high rainfall and in some cases high water tables were not conducive for early crop growth. Going into the planting season, crop growth was behind, which delayed the start of planting in some areas. Planting ratios were not very good for the 2015 planting season. Stands of newly planted cane are considered excellent with the exception of some late-planted cane that was slow to emerge due to dry conditions that were experienced in September through mid-October. Crop growth improved greatly during planting and prior to the harvest season.

Sugarcane brown rust levels were low throughout the growing season, and crop canopies remained very green. In the late fall, brown rust was evident on susceptible varieties of newly planted cane. The continuing mild weather during the winter of 2015-16 indicates that brown rust disease may be a problem for the 2016 crop.

Harvesting began on September 25, 2015 at Cora Texas Manufacturing Co. at White Castle and concluded at the St. Mary Sugar Cooperative on January 11, 2016. By October 14, 2015, all factories were in operation. Through October 23rd, Louisiana harvested a relatively erect crop, and sugar recoveries were very high. No tropical systems from the Atlantic basin affected the Louisiana sugar industry in 2015. However, the remnants

of Hurricane Patricia (from the Pacific basin) brought wind and rain to Louisiana on October 24 and 25, 2015. Weather conditions for the remainder of the harvest were very wet. Not only were field conditions unfavorable for harvesting the crop, also the cane was lodged. The wet conditions and lodged cane were the cause of high sediment and high fiber content, which lowered sugar recoveries that were once thought to set a new record. Throughout harvest, cane yields (tons/acre) were higher than expected, which was likely due to very warm temperatures experienced during harvest that accounted for late season growth along with increased extraneous matter (field soil and trash) in harvested cane.

The 2015 sugarcane variety census showed Louisiana producers have spread their risk and continued to rely on several varieties. The most widely grown variety was HoCP 96-540, which was grown on 34 percent of the production acres. This was followed by L 01-299 (30 percent), L 99-226 (11 percent), L 01-283 (10 percent), and HoCP 04-838 (9 percent). All other varieties each occupied less than 4 percent of the state's acreage. No new sugarcane varieties were released to the industry in 2015. Seed-cane of two potential releases (HoCP 09-804 and Ho 09-840) for 2016 were increased on secondary seed increase stations.

The Louisiana sugar industry did not experience below freezing temperatures harmful to the crop in 2015.

## Sweet Potatoes

Louisiana sweet potato acreage increased approximately 15 percent in 2015. Producers harvested 9,440 acres of sweet potatoes in 2015 compared to 7,983 in 2014. Acreage has trended upward the last several years. Louisiana remained fourth in sweet potato production in the United States in 2015, behind North Carolina, Mississippi and California.

Producers dealt with many weather-related crop issues in 2015. Growers experienced a wetter-than-normal season, which negatively affected management and harvesting of plants from seed beds. Wet conditions delayed timely plant cutting and grooming operation across the state. Field conditions during the planting season also delayed planting the crop in a timely manner. Sweet potato planting extended into July, which was two to three weeks later compared to previous years. Following planting, producers dealt with prolonged drought conditions that persisted approximately 110 days from early July-October. Approximately 65 percent of the sweet potato crop in Louisiana can be irrigated, which did help to offset negative effects caused from the drought. Harvest began in late August for some producers with many producers using irrigation to facilitate harvest operations in an effort to minimize skinning. Beginning in late October rains and prolonged wet conditions began contributing to harvest delays. It is estimated that approximately 450 acres went unharvested because of extreme wet conditions. Insect pressure was considered light during 2015. The main weed issues that growers dealt with were yellow and purple nutsedge, pigweed and smell melon. Weed problems are compounded by the fact that few registered herbicides are available for weed control in sweet potatoes.

Some producers are bulk harvesting, using newly designed harvesters or modified bulk harvesters. As the demand for processing potatoes expands, more producers are expected to move toward this method of harvesting. Bulk harvesting reduces labor needs and increases the acreage

harvested per day, which can reduce the risk of adverse weather during the harvest season and allow for a shorter harvest window. Some growers are marketing a majority of their sweet potato crop into the processing sector. This market is viable under the current price structure that is in place. Others are marketing their entire acreages under field run contracts to the processing sector while the majority of producers continue moving a percentage of their crop to processors while maintaining traditional fresh markets. Production and packing cost sweet potatoes in Louisiana are estimated to be in the \$3,800-\$4,200 range per acre in 2015. Approximately 25 percent of the acreage in Louisiana is grown exclusively for the processing sector. Cost of production for the processing sector is \$2,100 per acre before storage cost.

Despite weather related challenges, average yield 2015 was only slightly decreased compared to 2014. Producers reported yield in the range of 400-600 bushels with the state average estimated at 425.6 bushels per acre. The prices reported for fresh market was in the \$18-20 range FOB for a 40 pound box of U.S. No. 1's, \$11-12 for U.S. No. 2's, and Jumbos were in the \$10-12 price range for the year. Frozen processors paid a price of \$16-24 per hundredweight. Producers received \$5-8 per hundredweight for canner grade sweet potatoes.

New varieties released by the LSU AgCenter sweet potato breeding program – “Bayou Belle,” “Orleans” and “Belleuve” – are gaining in popularity for their taste, flavor and yield capabilities. At present, these varieties account for 20 percent of the acreage grown in Louisiana. Beauregard remains the dominant variety grown in Louisiana and is still popular in the sweet potato producing state in the southeastern United States.

Sweet potatoes are marketed year round. Producers, shippers and brokers are interested in maintaining a year-round supply to meet the consumer needs. In addition to the fresh market demand, product demand has increased for consumer-friendly items such as sweet potato fries, canned sweet potatoes, sweet potato chips, cookies, pet food and juice extracts. Growth in value-added use and markets for producers is expected to increase the demand for sweet potatoes. The growth is expected to result in acreage increases in the sweet potato production areas of the southeastern United States.

Total gross farm value for sweet potatoes was estimated at \$66.2 million. Total value of sweet potato production, including value-added of \$49.7 million, was \$115.9 million in 2015.

## **Vegetables, Commercial**

The Louisiana vegetable industry continues to be incredibly diverse. In 2015, hundreds of commercial and backyard growers harvested and sold 33 different vegetable crops that were grown on 3,799 acres. Those crops had a gross farm value of \$47.5 million.

The majority of the vegetable crops grown in Louisiana were sold by direct marketing at farmers markets and roadside stands. Direct marketing offered producers opportunities to sell at retail prices – but with some handling and marketing risk. The development of more than 140 farmers markets in Louisiana has greatly enhanced the marketing and value of vegetable crops harvested and sold by Louisiana producers. Vegetable crops not sold by those methods were delivered to grocery store

warehouses, individual grocery stores and fruit and vegetable stands.

Louisiana MarketMaker, a free online marketing program administered by the LSU AgCenter, has added opportunities to market Louisiana produce to brokers, buyers, grocery stores, restaurants and consumers throughout the region. Accessing these markets via the Louisiana MarketMaker website allows producers to potentially receive increased revenues from sales to markets where they traditionally have had limited access. Information on the Louisiana MarketMaker program is found at <http://la.marketmaker.uiuc.edu>.

Tomatoes continued to be one of the most valuable vegetable crops grown and harvested in Louisiana. In 2015, 381 producers grew field tomatoes on 266 acres and produced nearly 394,000 lugs of tomatoes. Gross farm value of these tomatoes was \$13.5 million in 2015.

Watermelons constituted 17 percent of the acreage devoted to vegetable production in Louisiana. Most of the watermelons grown in the state were sold to peddlers, and only a small percentage was sold to the wholesale markets. Gross farm value of watermelon production for 2015 was \$6.6 million.

Other top crops in terms of farm-gate value of production in Louisiana during 2015 were peppers (251 acres) with \$5.5 million in sales, sweet corn (365 acres) with \$4.5 million in sales, Irish potatoes (178 acres) with \$2.2 million in sales, and mustard (161 acres) with \$1.6 million in sales.

The gross farm value of all commercial vegetable sales in the state was \$47.5 million for 2015. Combined with value-added (\$64.1 million), the total value of Louisiana commercial vegetable production for 2015 was \$111.5 million.

## Wheat

Wheat was harvested from 91,816 acres by 283 producers, which was down considerably from 149,838 acres by 443 producers during 2014, and down from 232,813 acres by 506 producers during 2013. The decline in prices received for wheat during 2015 and 2014, compared to 2013 prices, combined with damage sustained from inclement weather over the winter of 2014, were the primary causes for this reduction in wheat acreage harvested in Louisiana during the past two years.

Louisiana's 2015 yield for wheat averaged 40 bushels per acre, which was down considerably from the average yield of 67 bushels per acre reported in 2014. Total Louisiana production for 2015 was 3.6 million bushels, down sharply from 10 million bushels in 2014.

The gross farm value of the 2015 Louisiana wheat crop was \$19.2 million, which was 70 percent lower than the 2014 crop. This decrease in gross farm value of the wheat crop was due to lower prices received for wheat and decreased production. Value-added for wheat production was \$3.4 million, which resulted in a total value of production for Louisiana wheat of \$22.6 million for 2015.

# 2015 PROGRESS REPORT

## Animal Commodities

Commodity	Gross Farm Value	Value Added	Total Value
CCattle and Calves	849,343,646	106,167,956	955,511,602
Milk	43,336,819	69,772,279	113,109,098
Horses	470,349,000	51,738,390	522,087,390
Poultry	817,300,607	796,868,092	1,614,168,699
Rabbits	156,602	16,443	173,045
Ostrich/Ratite	300	15	315
Quail/Pheasant	114,750	12,623	127,373
Sheep	963,186	110,766	1,073,952
Goats	2,695,451	336,931	3,032,382
Swine	1,684,016	210,502	1,894,518
Exotic Animals	343,000	36,015	379,015
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,186,287,377</b>	<b>\$1,025,270,012</b>	<b>\$3,211,557,389</b>

## Fisheries and Wildlife Commodities

Commodity	Gross Farm Value	Value Added	Total Value
AAquaculture	326,225,872	220,202,464	546,428,336
Freshwater Fisheries	14,869,513	13,010,824	27,880,337
Marine Fisheries	381,911,619	372,363,829	754,275,448
Fur Animals	89,158	22,290	111,448
Alligators (wild)	7,512,015	4,131,608	11,643,623
Hunting Lease Enterprise	98,703,536	8,389,801	107,093,337
Honey	8,312,334	2,078,084	10,390,418
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$837,624,047</b>	<b>\$620,198,898</b>	<b>\$1,457,822,945</b>

## Plant Commodities

Commodity	Gross Farm Value	Value Added	Total Value
Cotton	72,353,144	18,088,286	90,441,430
Feed Grain Crops	275,342,591	48,184,953	323,527,544
Forestry	997,303,839	2,991,911,517	3,989,215,356
Fruit Crops	45,868,516	16,053,981	61,922,497
Greenhouse Vegetables	2,070,400	724,640	2,795,040
Hay, Sold	137,840,945	24,122,165	161,963,110
Home Gardens	330,092,175	-	330,092,175
Nursery Stock and Ornamentals	103,088,000	56,698,400	159,786,400
Other Oilseed	94,143	4,707	98,850
Peanuts	692,383	103,857	796,240
Pecans	6,452,296	1,774,381	8,226,677
Rice	361,514,945	120,384,477	481,899,422
Sod Production	17,425,000	13,068,750	30,493,750
Soybeans	546,624,674	95,659,318	642,283,992
Sugarcane	450,187,486	312,430,115	762,617,601
Sweet Potatoes	66,241,618	49,681,214	115,922,832
Vegetables, Commercial	47,465,678	64,078,665	111,544,343
Wheat	19,205,076	3,360,888	22,565,964
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,479,862,909</b>	<b>\$3,816,330,315</b>	<b>\$7,296,193,223</b>

**Total - All Commodities \$6,503,774,333 \$5,461,799,225 \$11,965,573,557**

# 2015 PROGRESS REPORT

## Animal Commodities - 2011-2015

Year	Gross Farm Income	Value Added	Total Value
2011	\$1,693,260,071	\$951,852,096	\$2,645,112,167
2012	\$1,937,984,254	\$1,112,449,972	\$3,050,434,226
2013	\$2,121,932,794	\$1,197,058,793	\$3,318,991,587
2014	\$2,185,826,793	\$1,092,064,013	\$3,277,890,805
2015	\$2,186,287,377	\$1,025,270,012	\$3,211,557,389

## Fisheries and Wildlife Commodities - 2011-2015

Year	Gross Farm Income	Value Added	Total Value
2011	\$569,400,722	\$387,037,623	\$956,438,345
2012	\$643,477,136	\$457,481,759	\$1,100,958,895
2013	\$657,887,827	\$469,867,507	\$1,127,755,334
2014	\$752,589,325	\$550,485,355	\$1,303,074,680
2015	\$837,624,047	\$620,198,898	\$1,457,822,945

## Plant Commodities - 2011-2015

Year	Gross Farm Income	Value Added	Total Value
2011	\$3,824,167,187	\$3,237,899,996	\$7,062,067,182
2012	\$4,095,035,296	\$3,113,754,585	\$7,208,789,881
2013	\$4,154,018,312	\$3,188,981,201	\$7,342,999,512
2014	\$4,092,828,672	\$3,657,629,123	\$7,750,457,793
2015	\$3,479,862,909	\$3,816,330,315	\$7,296,193,223

## Progress Measured in Dollars for 5 years

### Animal, Fisheries, Wildlife and Plant Commodities

Year	Gross Farm Income	Value Added	Total Value
2011	\$6,086,827,980	\$4,576,789,714	\$10,663,617,693
2012	\$6,676,496,686	\$4,683,686,316	\$11,360,183,001
2013	\$6,933,838,933	\$4,855,907,500	\$11,789,746,432
2014	\$7,031,244,789	\$5,300,178,491	\$12,331,423,278
2015	\$6,503,774,333	\$5,461,799,225	\$11,965,573,557