

Production Value Of 2010 Ark. Crops Up 5 Percent From 2009

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

The value of production for Arkansas' chief crops was \$3.6 billion, in 2010, up 5 percent from 2009, the National Agricultural Statistics Service said Friday.

Nationally, the value of principal crops rose to \$192.4 billion, up from \$158.4 billion in 2009. The report said rice, cotton and soybeans accounted for 85 percent of the total value of production for principal crops in Arkansas.

"We went backwards a decade on rice yields in state," said Scott Stiles, extension economist-risk management for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, adding "wheat lost acres last year because it rained practically the entire fall of 2009.

Jason Kelley, extension agronomist-wheat and feed grains for the U of A Division of Agriculture, said wheat prices recovered in 2010, "but was not enough to counterbalance the acreage loss."

Stiles said: "soybean yields were off, but prices rallied in the last six months of the year. By harvest, we had great prices for soybeans, between \$11 and \$12 a bushel. They were very good from a historical standpoint."

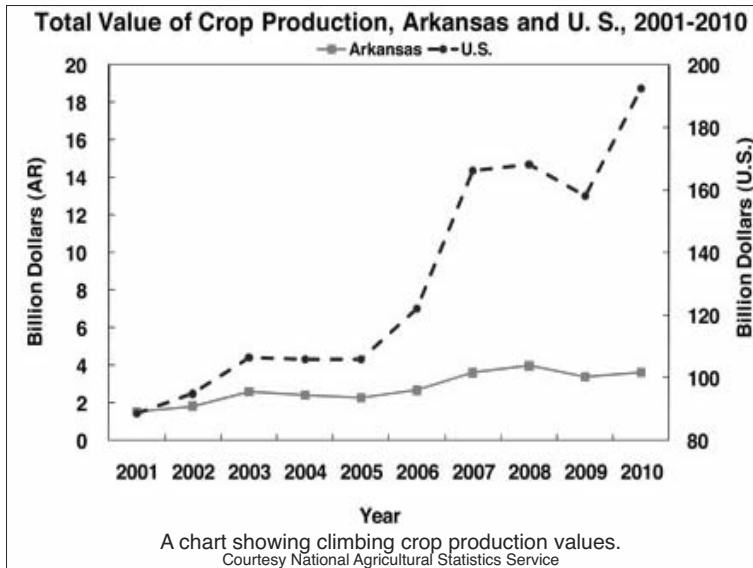
Of field crops, upland cotton saw the biggest gains in value from 2009, up a whopping 54 percent. Nationally, upland cot-

cent nationally. 2010 corn Arkansas production was 57 million bushels, 6 percent below 2009.

"Arkansas producers received \$4.70 per bushel in 2010, 24 percent more than in 2009," Coats said. "The 2010 value of Arkansas corn production was an estimated \$267,900 or 16 percent greater due to increasing global demand for corn for food, feed, and ethanol production and due to strong inflationary global forces.

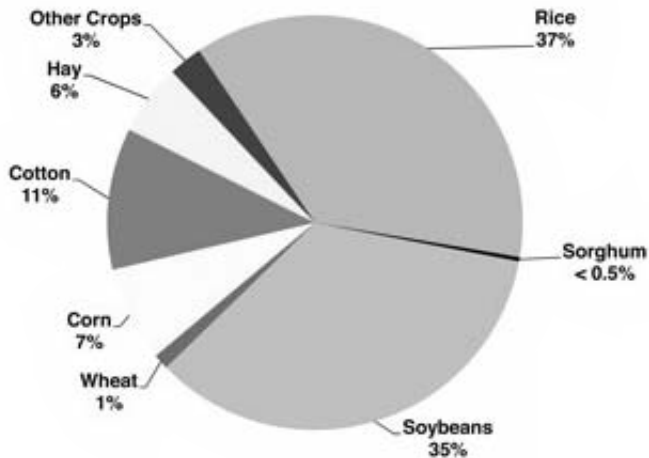
"Strong sustained inflationary forces tend to increase the price of commodities in general and the grain specifically," he said.

Sorghum rose 18 percent in Arkansas com-



Value of Production by Crop and Percent of Total, Arkansas, 2010

Total Value: \$3.6 Billion



This pie chart shows the relative percentages of crops in Arkansas. Courtesy National Agricultural Statistics Service

ton rose 93 percent. Cottonseed fared well, up 40 percent in Arkansas and 50 percent nationally.

Arkansas cotton production in 2010 was 1.18 million bales on 540,000 acres, 38 percent above and 8 percent respectively above 2009.

"Arkansas producers received \$.699 per pound in 2010, 11 percent more than in 2009, said Robert Coats, extension agricultural policy analyst for the U of A Division of Agriculture.

"The 2010 value of Arkansas cotton production was an estimated \$395.9 million or 54 percent greater due to increasing global demand for cotton from China and due to strong inflationary global forces.

"Today, the March cotton futures closed at \$1.97 per pound and December 2011 futures closed at \$1.26 per pound," he said.

Corn rose 16 percent, compared with 43 per-

pared to 44 percent respectively.

Fruits fared well too. The production value of peaches grew 144 percent from 2009, blueberries were up 35 percent and grapes rose 20 percent.

Pecans and alfalfa saw significant declines, 29 percent and 28 percent respectively. Hay also fell, 14 percent.

"The reason why hay went down is because of the hot, dry year therefore, less hay was produced. Many producers told me hay harvests were 40 to 60 percent less than normal in 2010," said Tom Troxel, associate head of Animal Science for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

The report is available online at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Arkansas/Publications/Crop_Releases/crp-val10.pdf. Δ

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