

## **SUGARCANE SUMMARY FOR CROP YEAR 2022**

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In 2022, sugarcane was grown on 512,000 acres in 25 Louisiana parishes. An estimated 473,009 acres were available for harvest for sugar. The 11 operating raw sugar factories in the state processed 17,094,218 tons of sugarcane. In total, the 11 factories produced 2.008 million short tons of sugar (96° pol). The average yield of cane produced from each harvested acre amounted to 36.1 tons/acre. The average sugar recovery at the 11 raw sugar factories was 11.77 percent or 235 pounds of sugar (96° pol) per ton of cane. The yield of commercially recoverable sugar produced per harvested acre was approximately 8,509 pounds.

Although the pricing period is not complete for the 2022 crop, the average predicted price for raw sugar is \$0.33 per pound. Molasses price is estimated at \$175 per short ton at 79.5° Brix.

The gross farm value of the 2022 sugarcane crop was \$850.6 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 the raw sugar processors, which amounted to \$585.6 million. Total value of the sugarcane crop to Louisiana producers, processors, and landlords at the first processing level was \$1.436 billion.

The 2022 sugarcane growing season had an early start with above average temperatures for February and March. Rainfall was near normal for the spring. Spring cultivation, herbicide applications, and fertilization were made in a timely fashion. Sugarcane brown rust levels were moderate, and the rust levels were higher in the southernmost growing regions. In the northern growing parishes, early summer rainfall was deficient, and those growers that could irrigate the cane crop did so. By early August, rainfall returned to all areas of the state. Populations of the Mexican rice borer (MRB) continued to increase and move eastward. MRB was the predominate stalk borer on the west side of the Atchafalaya basin.

Above normal rainfall in August delayed planting. Unlike 2020 and 2021, the Louisiana sugar industry was spared of any tropical storms. The crop remained erect for most of the planting and harvest season. There were reports of severe lodging with HoCP 14-885. More growers switched to billet planting in 2022.

Most of the 2022 harvest season was dry, which had a beneficial effect on sugar recovery. The dry weather also allowed for some post-harvest cultivation and plowing out of fields for replanting. Fallow fields were precision graded and rows pulled up.

A severe freeze occurred on December 23 – 26, 2022. The temperature in Bunkie on the morning of December 23<sup>rd</sup> was 14 F. Temperatures were below 25 F for the next three mornings. At the time of the freeze, the industry was 83% completed for estimated harvest. Nearly all sugarcane acres were harvested following the freezes. Sugar recoveries steadily decreased with time, with a 60% decrease during the last days of processing.

Rainfall and other weather data are reported in (Tables 1-3).

Harvest began on September 16, 2022, at the LASUCA mill and concluded at the Alma and Sterling raw sugar factories on January 21, 2023. The 2022 harvest was marked by dry weather for the first half of processing and dealing with the effects of a severe freeze (December 23-26, 2022) at the end of the season.

The 2022 sugarcane variety census showed that the most widely grown variety was L 01-299, grown on 56 percent of the production acres. This was followed by HoCP 96-540 (8%), L 01-283 (8%), and HoCP 09-804 (11%). Two new sugarcane varieties, L 15-306 and HoL 15-508, were released to sugarcane growers in 2022. Seed cane was made available by the American Sugar Cane League.

Table 1. 2022 monthly weather summary for Baton Rouge from data obtained at Ryan Airport.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Maximum Temperature</b>	<b>Minimum Temperature</b>	<b>Average Temperature</b>	<b>High Temperature</b>	<b>High Temp Date</b>	<b>Low Temperature</b>	<b>Low Temp Date</b>	<b>Monthly Rainfall</b>	<b>Rain Days</b>
January	62.4	36.8	49.6	84	1	19	23	2.16	8
February	67.3	41.8	54.5	86	23	27	6	2.13	10
March	74.4	47.2	60.8	86	6	28	13	3.69	5
April	80.3	56.1	68.2	87	30	39	9	3.25	7
May	88.8	67.4	78.1	95	21	59	28	3.94	11
June	94.4	73.4	83.9	99	25	69	5	3.25	9
July	93.5	74.6	84.0	97	12	71	23	9.30	15
August	90.5	74.6	82.5	95	31	73	14	10.29	18
September	89.3	67.9	78.6	97	24	52	30	0.86	6
October	81.6	53.7	67.7	90	12	34	19	0.38	3
November	71.9	49.0	60.5	89	8	30	18	10.11	12
December	66.7	47.2	57.0	84	7	20	23	7.25	10
<b>Annual</b>	80.1	57.6	68.9	99		19		56.61	114

Table 2. 2022 monthly weather summary for New Orleans from data obtained at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Maximum Temperature</b>	<b>Minimum Temperature</b>	<b>Average Temperature</b>	<b>High Temperature</b>	<b>High Temp Date</b>	<b>Low Temperature</b>	<b>Low Temp Date</b>	<b>Monthly Rainfall</b>	<b>Rain Days</b>
January	61.8	42.4	52.1	82	9	28	23	1.90	11
February	66.8	48.1	57.4	81	24	33	5	3.39	8
March	73.5	53.5	63.5	84	18	37	13	2.77	7
April	79.7	62.9	71.3	86	6	49	9	4.49	8
May	88.1	71.8	80.0	93	16	66	29	9.23	12
June	92.7	77.6	85.1	99	24	72	11	4.02	9
July	91.1	77.0	84.1	95	21	74	29	5.95	16
August	89.1	76.4	82.7	95	30	74	20	7.40	23
September	88.5	72.7	80.6	96	22	63	29	2.46	3
October	79.8	60.0	69.9	88	12	40	20	0.85	4
November	70.5	55.6	63.1	85	8	42	18	7.09	11
December	66.4	51.7	59.0	82	7	25	24	8.02	10
<b>Annual</b>	79.0	62.6	70.8	99		25		57.57	122

Table 3. 2022 monthly weather summary for Lafayette from data obtained at the Lafayette Regional Airport.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Maximum Temperature</b>	<b>Minimum Temperature</b>	<b>Average Temperature</b>	<b>High Temperature</b>	<b>High Temp Date</b>	<b>Low Temperature</b>	<b>Low Temp Date</b>	<b>Monthly Rainfall</b>	<b>Rain Days</b>
January	63.1	38.7	50.9	83	1	23	23	1.77	8
February	66.7	42.8	54.8	83	23	29	6	1.99	8
March	73.3	50.0	61.6	81	28	32	13	2.96	8
April	80.3	59.2	69.8	87	30	40	9	2.76	8
May	89.0	69.6	79.3	93	18	62	28	4.09	7
June	93.8	74.9	84.3	100	26	69	5	4.74	10
July	92.1	76.3	84.2	97	12	72	22	7.76	18
August	90.1	75.2	82.6	96	16	74	31	15.98	21
September	89.2	68.9	79.1	96	24	53	30	1.26	4
October	82.0	55.8	68.9	90	7	36	19	0.43	3
November	72.2	50.6	61.4	89	8	32	18	6.25	11
December	67.4	48.6	58.0	84	6	20	23	6.01	9
<b>Annual</b>	80.0	59.3	69.6	100		20		56.00	115