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For Immediate Release

USDA Peanut Acreage Estimates Higher than Farmers' Predictions

LUBBOCK, Texas (April 1, 2011) – The prospective planting numbers for commodities was released today by USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service. The report shows an increase in Texas peanut acreage in 2011, but producers are telling a different story.

“The farmers I’ve talked to at grower meetings in West Texas all tell me they are reducing their peanut acres substantially and some not planting peanuts at all,” said Shelly Nutt, executive director for the Texas Peanut Producers Board.

The USDA-NASS projects Texas peanut production at 160,000 acres for 2011. While the production estimates are high for this year, in 2010 statewide acreage was estimated at 155,000 acres in the initial report and their mid-season projection was 165,000 acres, with the state’s final production actually being recorded as 159,000 acres.

The 2011 acreage will likely vary across the peanut producing regions in the state.

“We’ve been hearing that peanut acreage will be down at least 30-40 percent in this area,” Jarred Ericson, a West Texas producer, said. “Our farming operation plans to decrease peanut acreage by at least 25 percent.”

Joseph Warnken of Wilco Peanut Company, based in Pleasanton, Texas, says the state’s southern peanut producing region should not see a significant decrease in acreage.

“In fact, there could even be a minimal increase in acreage for South Texas peanut production,” Warnken said.

While these are initial predictions from USDA-NASS, farmers in the southwest region may (and will more than likely) see a decline in their production acres.

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The Texas Peanut Producers Board is a state-wide board funded by a \$2 per ton voluntary checkoff program. TPPB is responsible for coordinating peanut research, promotion and marketing programs. For more information, visit www.TexasPeanutBoard.com or contact TPPB Communications Director Stephanie Pruitt at stephanie@texaspeanutboard.com.