

Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



Rising peanut acres spark carryover concerns

Peanut acreage is set to increase in several U.S. states as other commodity prices remain low. Producers are diversifying and relying on cattle operations to weather economic challenges.

As competing commodity prices remain low with input costs tipping the scale, U.S. peanut acres are expected to increase again in several states. This trend has Erick, Okla., peanut producer Mark DeLeon, concerned about carryover.

Georgia, the nation's largest peanut-producing state, is expected to increase its peanut acres by 12%, followed by Florida, Mississippi, and South Carolina with at least a 9% rise, according to the March 31, 2025, Prospective Plantings Report released by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

Oklahoma acres will also be up, with producers expected to plant more than 18,300 acres, according to David Nowlin, Oklahoma Peanut Commission president. This is a slight increase from the 17,199.6 acres planted in 2024, with a state average of 4,160 pounds per acre.

"Georgia is going to add a slug of acres to our crop," DeLeon told Farm Press at the 2025 Peanut Expo, Weatherford. "Production-wise, if we yield well, we're going to have a big carryover price that will continue to go down and be down. So, that hurts us as Southwest growers."

DeLeon, who also serves on the National Peanut Board, said farming economics are pushing his Southeast peanut peers to bypass their crop rotation and plant back-to-back peanuts. "They can get away with it there," he noted. "We can't do that."

U.S. peanut production is predicted to increase to 1.95 million acres, up from 1.76 million planted in 2024.

Production inputs

Input costs are weighing heavily. Tillman County producer and 2012 Farm Press Peanut Efficiency Award winner, Joe D. White, said he and his son are already farming as efficiently as possible.

"You can cut some places and some places you can't," he said, adding that reducing fertilizer is not an option.

White, who's farmed for nearly 50 years, said if weeds aren't an issue, he'll scale back on herbicides, which DeLeon noted are still up in price, along with fertilizer.

"Fuel is kind of leveling out or going down some," White said, "so that will help."

White will plant the same acres of peanuts, cotton and corn as in the past. "We're trying to get a balance on our corn and cotton," he said, adding they're heavier on cotton.

As for combating low cotton prices, White said increased production on his primarily dryland acres will be key. "That's the only thing you can do and hope we get a year where production is up," he said.

Yields are about the same each year, but "not consistent in our area, mainly because of moisture," he added.

DeLeon will forego cotton. "I just don't see any money in it. Whether you own your picker or your stripper, or you hire it done, you've got to depreciate that equipment," he explained. "It's still costing you 14 to 15 cents a pound, so if we're getting 70-cent or 60-cent cotton, what are we really getting?"

DeLeon will plant milo, which he said is cheaper to grow, and peanuts "because at \$500 per ton, they're still profitable."

He will concentrate his irrigation on his peanut acres. "We can't grow dryland peanuts here." And despite a higher Spanish contract, DeLeon said he'll plant runners, as they yield better on his farms.

Source: <https://www.farmprogress.com/peanut/rising-peanut-acres-spark-carryover-concerns>