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National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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CALIFORNIA PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS REPORT

SACRAMENTO -- The USDA-NASS, California Field Office today released the forecasts of field crop plantings for 2008. These forecasts, of acreage planted and to be planted, are based on a survey of more than 2,500 California farmers, conducted the first two weeks of March. The impact of weather and/or market conditions since the survey is not reflected in this report.

Barley - California farmers had planted or intended to plant 130 thousand acres to barley, up 53 percent from the previous year.

Beans, Dry Edible - Seeding of dry edible beans were planned for 46.0 thousand acres in California, down 22 percent from last year.

Corn - California farmers were expecting to plant 670 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, an increase of 3 percent from last year and an all-time record high for the state.

Cotton - California farmers were intending to plant 100 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2008, down 49 percent from the acreage seeded in 2007, and the lowest planted acreage since statistics for Upland cotton began in 1941. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 180 thousand acres to American Pima cotton in 2008, down 31 percent from last year.

Hay, All - California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.62 million acres, up 1 percent from last year.

Oats - Farmers in California had planted or were expecting to plant 260 thousand acres of oats, 24 percent more than in 2007.

Rice - California farmers intended to seed rice on 549 thousand acres, 3 percent above the acreage seeded in 2007. The expressed intentions were to seed 475 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 3 percent above last year. The long grain rice acreage forecast is 9.00 thousand acres, unchanged from last season. The short grain rice planted acreage forecast is 65.0 thousand acres, also unchanged from last season. Short grain and all rice forecasts include the intended plantings of sweet rice.

Sorghum - Farmers in California were intending to plant 38.0 thousand acres to sorghum in 2008, 12 percent above the 2007 acreage.

Sugar Beets - California producers had planted or intended to plant 31.6 thousand acres of sugar beets, down 21 percent from the acreage seeded in 2007.

Sweet Potatoes - California farmers were expecting to plant 14.5 thousand acres of sweet potatoes in 2008, up 7 percent from last year.

Wheat - Acreage seeded to Winter wheat is estimated at 600 thousand acres, a 20 percent increase from last year. Another 170 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, double the amount planted in 2007.

The next production forecast will be issued April 9, 2008.

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