



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Media Contact: Jack Rutz, 1-800-851-1127 · September 12, 2008

CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

SACRAMENTO -- The USDA-NASS, California Field Office today released the crop production forecast for September. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of August and the first week of September, included the following commodities:

Oranges, Navel – California's initial 2008-09 Navel orange forecast is 64.0 million 37.5-pound cartons, 34 percent below last season's crop of 97.0 million cartons. Of the total forecast, 62.0 million cartons are estimated to be in the Central Valley. Bearing acreage for the State is estimated at 137 thousand, resulting in a yield of 467 cartons per acre. The forecast is based on the Navel Orange Objective Measurement Survey conducted in the Central Valley. Survey data indicated an average fruit set of 202 oranges per tree, with a September 1 diameter of 2.28 inches.

Walnuts – The 2008 California walnut production is forecast at 375 thousand tons, up 15 percent from 325 thousand tons in 2007. Bearing acreage is estimated at 218 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1.72 tons per acre. The forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement Survey conducted during August. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,416 per tree, up 4 percent from 2007's average of 1,357. The San Joaquin Valley set is 1,270, up 9 percent from last year; the coastal area set is 973, down 20 percent from 2007; the Sacramento Valley set is 1,592, up 3 percent from last year. The percentage of sound kernels in-shell was 98.0 percent statewide.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 390 thousand bales, down 40 percent from the 2007 crop, but 16 percent above the August 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 117 thousand, up 10 thousand from the previous forecast. Yield is forecast at 1,600 pounds per acre, up 6 percent from last month. The forecast for American Pima cotton production is 420 thousand bales, down 47 percent from the 2007 crop, and down 13 percent from the August 1 estimate. Harvested acreage is estimated at 151 thousand, down 20 thousand from the previous forecast. Yield is forecast at 1,335 pounds per acre, down 1 percent from last month.

Rice - All rice production in California for 2008 is forecast at 40.3 million cwt., down 8 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 7,800 pounds per acre, up 1 percent from the August 1 forecast. Planted and harvested acreages are estimated at 519 thousand and 517 thousand acres, respectively. Rice fields were in various stages of heading during August. Harvest is expected to begin during September.

Corn - Corn for grain production in California for 2008 is forecast at 1.05 million tons, up 5 percent from last year's crop, unchanged from the August forecast. With acreage estimated at 215 thousand acres, the yield is 4.90 tons per acre. Compared to the 2007 crop year, harvested acreage is up 8 percent, but yield is down 3 percent.

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Sugar Beets - The 2008 California sugar beet production forecast is 1.21 million tons, up 4 percent from the August forecast, but down 18 percent from last season. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month with 30.9 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 39.1 tons per acre.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these estimates considerably. The next production forecast will be issued October 10, 2008.

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