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California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP ACREAGE REPORT

SACRAMENTO -- The USDA, NASS, California Field Office today released the field crop acreage estimates for 2008, showing the following changes from the 2007 acreage.

COTTON: California's cotton growers planted 110 thousand acres of Upland cotton and 175 thousand acres of American Pima cotton in 2008. Upland acreage is down 44 percent and American Pima acreage is down 33 percent from 2007. Upland planted acreage is at its lowest level on record. Additionally, Pima acres have exceeded Upland acres in 2007 and 2008 in California.

CORN: Corn planted for all purposes is at an all-time high of 670 thousand acres, up 3 percent from 2007. The largest California corn acreage prior to this year was 650 thousand acres planted last year. California farmers expect to harvest 215 thousand acres of corn for grain in 2008, up 8 percent from last year. High corn grain prices, ethanol plant expansions, as well as strong demand for corn used for silage by dairy farms, encouraged the record high plantings.

OATS: Oats were seeded on 300 thousand acres for 2008, up 43 percent from last year's acreage. Acreage expected to be harvested for grain totaled 35.0 thousand acres, 75 percent above 2007.

WHEAT: California's Durum wheat planted acreage is estimated at 170 thousand acres, twice the amount planted last year. The 155 thousand acres for grain harvest are up 107 percent from 2007. California's acreage seeded to Wheat other than Durum totaled 650 thousand acres, up 30 percent from 2007.

RICE: California's seeded rice acreage is estimated at 534 thousand acres, the same as last year. The acreage planted to long grain rice totaled 9.00 thousand acres, unchanged from 2007. Planted acreage of medium grain rice is the same as last year at 460 thousand acres and acreage planted to short grain rice is unchanged from 2007 at 65.0 thousand acres.

BARLEY: In California, an estimated 120 thousand acres were seeded to barley for all purposes this year, up 41 percent from 2007. A total of 60.0 thousand acres is expected to be harvested for grain, 50 percent above last year.

SUGAR BEETS: California growers have planted and intend to plant 31.6 thousand acres to sugar beets, down 21 percent from last year's total planted acreage.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS: An estimated 46.0 thousand acres in California were seeded to dry edible beans for the 2008 season, down 22 percent from last year's total. The dry bean acreage is the lowest on record.

SAFFLOWER: California safflower growers planted 90.0 thousand acres in 2008. Safflower acreage is up 80 percent from last year's total.

ALL HAY: California growers expected to harvest 1.54 million acres of all hay in 2008, down 4 percent from 2007. Of the total, alfalfa is expected to be harvested from 950 thousand acres, 4 percent below last year. All other hay is estimated to be harvested on 590 thousand acres, down 5 percent from last year's total.

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