

CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

Released: August 10, 2001

The California Agricultural Statistics Service today released the latest crop production forecast for August. The latest survey, conducted during the last week of July, included the following commodities:

Apples - California's 2001 apple acreage is estimated at 29,000 acres, a 6% decrease from 2000. The yield is forecast to be 12.0 tons per acre resulting in a total production of 348,000 tons, 7% above the 2000 production. Frost and hail early in the season damaged some apples, while heat later in the season slowed growth and caused sunburn in some areas. However, the quality of the overall apple crop is reported in good condition.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 1.75 million bales, down 21% from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated to be 615,000 acres, with a yield of 1,366 pounds per acre. California's American Pima cotton production forecast is 540,000 bales, up 56% from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 204,000, with a yield of 1,271 pounds per acre.

Grapes - Wine type variety grape production for California is forecast at 3.10 million tons, down 8% from 2000. The table type grape production is expected to total 800,000 tons, up 3% from last year. The California raisin type variety grape forecast is 2.00 million tons, down 31% from 2000.

Olives - California's 2001 olive crop forecast is 125,000 tons, up 136 percent compared to last year's 53,000 tons. The bearing acreage, similar to last year's, is estimated to be 36,000 acres. The yield, at 3.47 tons per acre, is also 136 percent more than the previous year. Olives, an alternate bearing crop, experienced a twenty-year low last year. This year, it was expected that the olive crop would be relatively large. However, hot weather during bloom may have affected the fruit set, lowering the expected production level.

Pears - The forecast of the 2001 Bartlett pear crop in California is 230,000 tons, down 18% from 2000. The Bartlett pear harvest is well underway in the Sacramento area, but just starting in Lake and Mendocino counties with approximately half of the total crop picked. The 2001 other pear forecast for California is 30,000 tons, unchanged from 2000. Asian pear picking is underway with good quality reported.

Others - The rice production forecast is 37.0 million cwt., down 15% from 2000; alfalfa hay is 7.27 million tons, up 2%; other hay is 1.70 million tons, up 19%; corn is 906.5 thousand tons, down 19%; sugar beets are 1.56 million tons, down 49%; dry beans are 1.51 million cwt., down 28%.

Late summer and fall harvests may change these estimates considerably. The next production forecast will be issued September 12, 2001.