

# California Prospective Plantings Report

Released: March 31, 2005

The following is an estimate of crop plantings for 2005. These estimates, of acreage planted and to be planted, are based on a survey of more than 2,000 California farmers, conducted the first two weeks of March. The impact of weather and/or market conditions since then is not reflected in this report.

**Cotton** - California farmers were intending to plant 480,000 acres to *Upland* cotton in 2005, down 14 percent from the acreage seeded in 2004. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 240,000 acres to *American Pima* cotton in 2005, up 12 percent from last year.

**Corn** - California farmers were expected to plant 560,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, an increase of 4 percent from last year.

**Oats** - Farmers in California had planted or were expected to plant 250,000 acres of oats, up 4 percent from 2004.

**Wheat** - Acreage seeded to *Winter wheat* is estimated at 500,000 acres, down 11 percent from last year. Another 90,000 acres have been seeded to *Durum wheat*, down 25 percent from 2004.

**Rice** - California farmers intended to seed rice on 560,000 acres, a 6 percent decrease from the 2004 seeded acreage. The expressed intentions were to seed 510,000 acres to *medium grain* varieties, down 6 percent from a year ago. *Long grain* rice acreage is forecast at 6,000 acres, down 14 percent from last season. *Short grain* rice planted acreage is forecast at 44,000 acres, 8 percent below 2004. Short grain and all rice forecasts include the intended plantings of sweet rice.

**Barley** - California farmers had planted or intended to plant 100,000 acres to barley, a 17 percent decrease from the previous year.

**Sugar Beets** - California producers had planted or intended to plant 49,000 acres of sugar beets, down 1 percent from the seeded acreage in 2004.

**Dry Edible Beans** - Seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 60,000 acres in California, the same level as last year.

**Sweet Potatoes** - California farmers were expected to plant 11,200 acres of sweet potatoes in 2005, 3 percent less than last year.

**All Hay** - California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.60 million acres, 3 percent more than last year.

**Sorghum** - Farmers in California were intending to plant 26,000 acres to sorghum in 2005, down 7 percent from the 2004 acreage.

The next production forecast will be issued April 8, 2005.