

California Farm News



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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:

Corn - The corn acreage harvested for grain remains unchanged from August at 165 thousand acres. The yield per acre, however, is down 3 percent from August at 4.34 tons. Compared to the 2004 crop year, the acreage is 10 percent higher, whereas the yield is 11 percent lower. The resulting production is 707.7 thousand tons, down nearly 3 percent from last year's crop.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 1.20 million bales, down 33 percent from 2004 and down 11 percent from the August 1 forecast. With harvested acreage of 433 thousand acres, the resulting yield is 1,330 pounds per acre. The forecast for American Pima cotton production is 630 thousand bales, down 8 percent from the 2004 crop, and down 3 percent from the August 1 estimate. Harvested acreage is estimated at 226 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1,338 pounds per acre.

Oranges, Navel - California's initial 2005-06 Navel orange production forecast is 84.0 million (37.5-pound) cartons, down 2 percent from last season. Of this total, 82.0 million cartons are estimated to come from the Central Valley. Bearing acreage for the State is estimated at 131 thousand, resulting in a yield of 642 cartons per acre. The forecast was based on the Navel Orange Objective Measurement Survey conducted in the Central Valley. Survey data indicated an average set of 461 oranges per tree, with a September 1 diameter of 2.23 inches. The Navel orange crop appeared to be of good quality thus far. The fruit was exhibiting symmetrical shape with generally small, well formed navels. The exterior texture of the oranges was smoother than usual at this point in the season, and there was much less peel miner damage evident when compared to the same time last season.

Rice - All rice production in California for 2005 is forecast at 39.6 million cwt., down 22 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 7,800 pounds per acre. Planted and harvested acreages are estimated at 511 thousand and 508 thousand acres, respectively. The biggest challenge California rice growers were facing to date was weed pressure due to the repeated wetting of the soil from rain. Heavy infestations of water grasses, sedges, and sprangletop were present in many fields.

Sugar Beets - The 2005 California sugar beet production forecast is 1,774 thousand tons, unchanged from the August forecast, but down 8 percent from last season. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month with 46.8 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 37.9 tons per acre.

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Walnuts - The 2005 California walnut production is forecast at a record 340 thousand tons, up 5 percent from 2004. Bearing acreage is estimated at 219 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1.55 tons per acre. The forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement Survey conducted during August. The survey indicated a state-average nut set of 1,575, up 3 percent from 2004. The San Joaquin Valley set is 1,372, up 17 percent from last year; the coastal area set is 818, down 11 percent from 2004; the Sacramento Valley set is 1,854, down 5 percent from last year. The percentage of sound kernels in-shell was 97.5 percent statewide.

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 12, 2005.

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