

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 November. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of October and the first week of November, included the following commodities:

Corn - Corn for grain production is expected to total 673 thousand tons, down 8 percent from last year. Harvested acreage of 155 thousand is up 3 percent, and the yield forecast of 4.34 tons per acre is down 11 percent from the previous year. Cool spring temperatures and continued precipitation slowed development and delayed the completion of planting into late June. Hot weather, however, arrived in mid-July stimulating growth in many corn fields. Harvesting began in some locations in late September. Many fields remained unharvested the first week of November, due to late planting and slow development early in the season.

Cotton - American Pima cotton production in California is forecast at 570 thousand bales, down 17 percent from the 2004 crop. The yield forecast is 1,211 pounds per acre. Harvested acreage is estimated at 226 thousand acres, 6 percent above last year. Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 1.15 million bales, down 4 percent from the October forecast, and down 36 percent from the 2004 crop. With harvested acreage at 433 thousand acres, the yield is forecast at 1,275 pounds per acre. Cotton harvest was ongoing throughout the State with only a few fields continuing to be defoliated. Growers continued to shred and disc fields almost immediately after they finished picking. Some growers were considering a second picking in order to raise the yield. The quality of early harvested cotton was extremely good. Foggy, cooler weather, however, is expected to decrease the quality of later harvested cotton.

Rice - All rice production in California is forecast at 37.1 in million cwt. for 2005, down 27 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 7,300 pounds per acre, and the harvested acreage is estimated at 508 thousand. The windy, cool conditions during Spring planting in combination with fertilizing into wet soil hampered seedling growth. The biggest challenge that California rice growers faced during the growing season 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. Rice harvest was virtually complete as of November 1.

Sugar Beets - California sugar beet production is forecast at 1.74 million tons, down 10 percent from the 2004 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 45.3 thousand, and the yield forecast is 38.3 tons per acre. The 2005 fall sugar beet harvest in Mendota was nearly complete, and yield was reported to be very good. The 2005 spring crop in Mendota was planted late but was progressing well and will be harvested from April to June of 2006. Planting of the new fall crop in the Imperial Valley was complete, and good stands were reported.

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 December 9, 2005.

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