

# 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 January. The latest survey, conducted during the last week of December 2005 and the first week of January 2006, included the following commodities:

**Cotton** - American Pima harvested acreage is estimated at 229 thousand acres. Production is set at 580 thousand bales, down 15 percent from last year's crop and down 3 percent from the December 1 forecast. The resulting yield is 1,216 pounds per acre. Upland harvested acreage is estimated at 428 thousand acres. Production is set at 1.05 million bales, a decrease of 41 percent from last year and down 5 percent from the December 1 forecast. The yield calculates to 1,178 pounds per acre. Cotton harvest was nearly complete by mid-December and was complete by the end of the month. Shredding and discing of harvested cotton fields to comply with pink bollworm plow-down requirements were still ongoing but nearly complete.

**Oranges** - The 2005-06 California Navel orange forecast is 84.0 million cartons, unchanged from the October forecast, but down 2 percent from last season's crop. The Navel harvest was well underway during December, but there were some harvesting delays due to rain and fog. Fruit maturity was good, although the sizes were slightly smaller than what was seen in the past several years. Fungicide applications were underway in some groves, and irrigation was ongoing as needed. The 2005-06 Valencia orange forecast is 24.0 million cartons, down 8 percent from the October forecast and 33 percent from last season's crop. The Valencia crop was developing well and maturing nicely in the orchards. Acreage pullouts continued to increase due to market pressures. Irrigation and pest treatments were ongoing as needed.

**Lemons** - The 2005-2006 California lemon forecast is 38.0 million cartons, unchanged from both last season's final production and the October forecast. Harvest continued across in the Central Valley, South Coastal areas, and Desert region during December. No problems were reported thus far, and everything was progressing smoothly. Overall quality was very good.

**Tangerines** - The 2005-2006 California tangerine forecast is a record 6.20 million cartons. Production is 11 percent above last season's crop but down 3 percent from the October forecast. There were some harvesting delays during December due to periods of heavy fog; otherwise, harvest progressed as usual. Good fruit maturity and color were reported. The Fairchild variety had excellent exterior quality, smooth texture, and fair flavor and eating quality.

**Grapefruit** - The 2005-2006 California grapefruit forecast is 12.0 million cartons, 3 percent above both the October forecast and last season's crop. Market conditions for the California grapefruit crop continued to be very strong as a result of the extensive losses in Florida. Pummelos were harvested in the Central Valley. Exterior quality was reported to be excellent. Texture was very smooth in all sizes, and shape was normal. Rio Red variety grapefruit was harvested in the desert. Exterior quality was reported to be good. Shape was good with medium-to-coarse texture. Flavor and eating quality were reported to be good to fair. Oro Blanco variety grapefruit was harvested in both the Central Valley and Desert areas. Quality was good to excellent. Shape was normal, and texture was smooth in all sizes.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. The next production forecast will be issued February 9, 2006.

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