

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:

Cotton - American Pima cotton production in California is forecast at a record high 710 thousand bales, up 27 percent from the 2005 crop. The yield forecast is 1,244 pounds per acre. Harvested acreage is estimated at 274 thousand acres, 20 percent above last year. Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 770 thousand bales, up 3 percent from the October forecast, and down 28 percent from last year's crop. With harvested acreage at 283 thousand acres, the yield is forecast at 1,306 pounds per acre. Cotton defoliation and harvest continued. Harvested fields were shredded and disced in compliance with the cotton plow down regulations. Harvest has progressed well to date due to positive weather conditions over the past month. Warm days, no rain, and little fog have been favorable for late cotton growth and harvesting. Picking increased in early November due to the threat of rain. A few growers were going back over fields for a second picking.

Rice - All rice production in California is forecast at 40.0 million cwt. for 2006, up 3 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 7,600 pounds per acre, and the harvested acreage is estimated at 526 thousand. Initial field preparations for the 2006 crop were delayed due to wet field conditions caused by several rainstorms during the spring. Growers began field preparations during April. Most of the rice fields were planted as of the end of May, but some growers were planting as late as the middle of June. An excessive heat wave hit during July, but did not seem to cause too much damage to the crop. Mild August temperatures resulted in improved quality. Harvest began during the middle of September and was approximately 80 percent complete as of November 1.

Corn - Corn for grain production is expected to total 490 thousand tons, down 8 percent from last year. Harvested acreage of 100 thousand is down 9 percent, and the yield forecast of 4.90 tons per acre is up 2 percent from the previous year. Wet spring weather delayed ground preparations for planting of the 2006 corn crop. Planting began in early April, but cool temperatures and continued precipitation slowed development and delayed the completion of planting into late June. The mid-July heat wave stimulated growth, and moderate temperatures throughout August helped the crop progress. Corn harvest was underway in September and continued through October. Low morning temperatures in October slowed the corn harvest in some areas.

Sugar Beets - California sugar beet production is forecast at 1.59 million tons, down 7 percent from the 2005 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 43.0 thousand, and the yield forecast is 37.0 tons per acre. Harvest of the 2006 Central Valley fall crop was completed on October 21st. The yield and sugar content were lower than usual due to heat damage and aphid infestations. Planting of the Imperial Valley crop began in early October, a week late due to the late cotton harvest.

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 11, 2006.

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