



California Farm News

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CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

SACRAMENTO -- The USDA-NASS California Field Office today released the crop production forecasts that reflect conditions as of January 1. The latest survey, conducted during the last week of December 2006 and the first week of January 2007, included the following commodities:

Cotton - American Pima harvested acreage is estimated at 274 thousand acres. Production is set at 680 thousand bales, up 22 percent from last year's crop and up 3 percent from the December 1 forecast. The resulting yield is 1,191 pounds per acre. Upland harvested acreage is estimated at 283 thousand acres. Production is set at 770 thousand bales, a decrease of 28 percent from last year and unchanged from the December 1 forecast. The yield calculates to 1,306 pounds per acre. The 2006 California cotton harvest was complete by mid-December. Shredding and discing of harvested cotton fields to comply with pink bollworm plow-down requirements were complete by the end of the month.

Oranges - The 2006-2007 California Navel orange forecast is 66.0 million cartons, unchanged from the October forecast, but down 27 percent from last season's crop. The Navel orange harvest began late this season, but progressed quickly; approximately 25 percent of the crop was harvested and shipped. Demand was high, and flavor and overall quality were good. The cold temperatures in November and December are expected to affect pack-outs. Ice-marked fruit, and some internal damage was expected from areas that experienced freezing temperatures. The 2006-2007 Valencia orange forecast is 26.0 million cartons, unchanged from the October forecast, but up 8 percent from last season's crop. The Valencia crop was developing normally to date and maturing nicely in the orchards as harvest time drew near. There were concerns that recent cold temperatures may affect the quality and size of the harvest.

Lemons - The 2006-2007 California lemon forecast is 41.0 million cartons, two percent below last season's final production, but up 4 percent from the October forecast. Central Valley lemons were exhibiting good quality and shape as well as strong condition. Picking of south coastal lemons was on the increase and quality was good to fair. Desert area lemons were also of good quality and strong condition.

Tangerines - The 2006-2007 California tangerine forecast is 7.60 million cartons. Production is 6 percent above last season's crop and unchanged from the October forecast. The harvest of Satsumas, Fairchilds, and Clementines was strong and momentum was gaining in the San Joaquin Valley for Owari and Dobashi Beni varieties. The crop was light in some areas. With cool and wet weather conditions, citrus growers were monitoring lots for freeze damage.

Grapefruit - The 2006-2007 California grapefruit forecast is 12.0 million cartons, 4 percent above the October forecast, but unchanged from last season's crop. Rio Red harvest was underway in the desert. The fruit had bright red interiors and good exterior blush. Oroblanco harvest was also underway and fruit was exhibiting nice color, juice, and flavor. Demand was strong for pummelos which were showing good to excellent exterior quality and strong condition.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. The next production forecast will be issued February 9, 2007.

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