



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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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:

Oranges, Navel – California's initial 2007-08 Navel orange forecast is 86.0 million 37.5-pound cartons, 26 percent above last season's crop of 68.0 million cartons. Of the total forecast, 84.0 million cartons are estimated to be in the Central Valley. Bearing acreage for the State is estimated at 137 thousand, resulting in a yield of 628 cartons per acre. The forecast is based on the Navel Orange Objective Measurement Survey conducted in the Central Valley. Survey data indicated an average fruit set of 390 oranges per tree, with a September 1 diameter of 2.25 inches. The Navel orange crop was looking good. Fruit, however, appear smaller than usual for this time of year. The average fruit diameter as of September 1 is the lowest since the 2002-2003 crop year.

Walnuts – The 2007 California walnut production is forecast at 320 thousand tons, down 8 percent from 346 thousand tons in 2006. Bearing acreage is estimated at 216 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1.48 tons per acre. The forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement Survey conducted during August. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,357 per tree, down 7 percent from 2006's average of 1,458. The San Joaquin Valley set is 1,162, down 8 percent from last year; the coastal area set is 1,221, down 7 percent from 2006; the Sacramento Valley set is 1,548, down 7 percent from last year. The percentage of sound kernels in-shell was 98.4 percent statewide.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 570 thousand bales, down 27 percent from the 2006 crop, but 8 percent above the August 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 194 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1,410 pounds per acre. The forecast for American Pima cotton production is a record high 740 thousand bales, up 8 percent from the 2006 crop, but down 1 percent from the August 1 estimate. Harvested acreage is now estimated at 257 thousand, down 4.0 thousand from the previous forecast. Yield is forecast at 1,382 pounds per acre, up slightly from last month.

Rice - All rice production in California for 2007 is forecast at 42.6 million cwt., up 6 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 8,200 pounds per acre, up 3 percent from the August 1 forecast. Planted and harvested acreages are estimated at 523 thousand and 520 thousand acres, respectively. Rice fields were in various stages of heading during August. Harvest is expected to begin during September.

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Corn - Corn for grain production in California for 2007 is forecast at 931 thousand tons, up 83 percent from last year's crop and up 3 percent from the August forecast. With acreage estimated at 190 thousand acres, the yield is 4.90 tons per acre. Compared to the 2006 crop year, harvested acreage is up 73 percent, and yield is up 6 percent.

Sugar Beets - The 2007 California sugar beet production forecast is 1,384 thousand tons, unchanged from the August forecast, but down 11 percent from last season. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month with 39.1 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 35.4 tons per acre.

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, 2007.

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