



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Media Contact: Jack Rutz, 1-800-851-1127 · January 11, 2008

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 2007 and the first week of January 2008, included the following commodities:

Cotton - American Pima production is estimated at 760 thousand bales, down 1 percent from the December 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 257 thousand acres. The resulting yield is 1,419 pounds per acre. Upland production is estimated at 630 thousand bales, up 2 percent from the December 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 194 thousand acres. The yield calculates to 1,559 pounds per acre. The 2007 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 2007-2008 California Navel orange forecast is 96.0 million cartons, up 12 percent from the October forecast and up 41 percent from last season's crop. The Navel season got off to a good start with above average yields and good fruit color, maturity, and sugar content. Markets slowed a bit earlier in the season, but have been gaining momentum. Supplies remain plentiful and quality remains good. The 2007-2008 Valencia orange forecast is 30.0 million cartons, unchanged from the October forecast, but up 36 percent from last season's crop. Growers are expecting a better year for Valencia oranges than in 2007. Damage to trees from the 2007 freeze has had an effect on this year's production, but recovery has been significant in many groves. The crop has been progressing normally thus far.

Lemons - The 2007-2008 California lemon forecast is 34.0 million cartons, 6 percent above last season's final production and up 3 percent from the October forecast. Picking is taking place in all growing regions of California, but picking is light. Demand has exceeded supply for some grades. Volumes should improve later this month as picking in the Central Valley gains momentum. Volumes nonetheless are expected to remain below average.

Tangerines - The 2007-2008 California tangerine forecast (including mandarins and tangelos) is 10.2 million cartons. Production is 76 percent above last season's crop and up 9 percent from the October forecast. Harvest has been progressing well and the outlook is good for California mandarins. Quality has been good to excellent. Satsuma and Fairchild varieties are still being harvested throughout the State. Clementine harvest is about over, while Minneola tangelo harvest is just beginning. Rains may slow harvest in some areas.

Grapefruit - The 2007-2008 California grapefruit forecast is 10.0 million cartons, 11 percent above the October forecast and up 25 percent from last season's crop. Florida and Texas continue to dominate the grapefruit market. California's Pummelo and Oroblanco grapefruit varieties are reported to be of good quality.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. The next production forecast will be issued February 8, 2008.

###