



California Field Crop Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · (916) 498-5186 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Released: September 17, 2008 · Frequency: Monthly · (USPS 598-270) VOL. 29 NO. 9

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Field Crop Production | 1-2 |
| Rice Stocks --- Summer Potato Production | 2 |
| Farm Prices..... | 3 |

FIELD CROP PRODUCTION

COTTON: California Upland cotton production is forecast at 390 thousand bales, 40 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is expected to total 117 thousand acres, 40 percent below 2007. The yield is forecast slightly below 2007 at 1,600 pounds per acre.

California American Pima cotton production is forecast at 420 thousand bales, 47 percent below the previous year. The 151 thousand acres for harvest is down 41 percent from last year.

U.S. Upland cotton production is forecast at 13.4 million bales, down 27 percent from 2007. The yields are expected to be 839 pounds per acre, down 25 pounds from 2007. The harvested acreage, at 7.66 million acres, is down 25 percent from the previous year.

American Pima cotton production nationally is forecast at 459 thousand bales, down 46 percent from last year's record high production. The U.S. yield is forecast at 1,296 pounds per acre, down 123 pounds from last year.

(Continued on Page 2)

FIELD CROP ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

| Crop | Area Harvested | | Yield Per Acre | | | Production | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 Forecast | Unit | 2007 | 2008 Forecast | Unit | 2007 | 2008 Forecast |
| | 1,000 Acres | | | Number | | | 1,000 | |
| CALIFORNIA | | | | | | | | |
| Wheat, Winter 1/ | 240.0 | 350.0 | Tons | 2.40 | 2.25 | Tons | 576.0 | 787.5 |
| Wheat, Durum 1/ | 75.0 | 155.0 | Tons | 2.85 | 3.15 | Tons | 213.8 | 488.3 |
| Oats 1/ | 20.0 | 35.0 | Tons | 1.49 | 1.44 | Tons | 29.8 | 50.4 |
| Barley 1/ | 40.0 | 60.0 | Tons | 1.44 | 1.44 | Tons | 57.6 | 86.4 |
| Corn for Grain | 200.0 | 215.0 | Tons | 5.04 | 4.90 | Tons | 1,008.0 | 1,053.5 |
| Rice, All 2/ | 533.0 | 517.0 | Cwt. | 82.20 | 78.00 | Cwt. | 43,822.0 | 40,326.0 |
| Long | 9.0 | 9.0 | Cwt. | 71.00 | 3/ | Cwt. | 639.0 | 3/ |
| Medium | 459.0 | 458.0 | Cwt. | 85.30 | 3/ | Cwt. | 39,153.0 | 3/ |
| Short | 65.0 | 50.0 | Cwt. | 62.00 | 3/ | Cwt. | 4,030.0 | 3/ |
| Cotton, Upland 4/ | 194.0 | 117.0 | Lbs. | 1,608.00 | 1,600.00 | Bales | 650.0 | 390.0 |
| Cotton, American-Pima 4/ | 257.0 | 151.0 | Lbs. | 1,481.00 | 1,335.00 | Bales | 793.0 | 420.0 |
| Sugar Beets 5/ | 39.1 | 30.9 | Tons | 37.50 | 39.10 | Tons | 1,466.0 | 1,208.0 |
| Beans, Dry Edible 1/ 6/ | 58.0 | 51.0 | Cwt. | 20.90 | 21.00 | Cwt. | 1,212.0 | 1,071.0 |
| Hay, All 1/ | 1,610.0 | 1,540.0 | Tons | 5.85 | 5.71 | Tons | 9,422.0 | 8,797.0 |
| Alfalfa Hay 1/ | 990.0 | 950.0 | Tons | 7.20 | 6.90 | Tons | 7,128.0 | 6,555.0 |
| Other Hay 1/ | 620.0 | 590.0 | Tons | 3.70 | 3.80 | Tons | 2,294.0 | 2,242.0 |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | | | |
| Wheat, Winter 1/ | 35,952.0 | 40,252.0 | Tons | 1.27 | 1.40 | Tons | 45,479.7 | 56,245.7 |
| Wheat, Durum 1/ | 2,112.0 | 2,583.0 | Tons | 1.02 | 1.01 | Tons | 2,150.6 | 2,597.2 |
| Oats 1/ | 1,505.0 | 1,443.0 | Tons | 0.97 | 1.00 | Tons | 1,465.6 | 1,438.4 |
| Barley 1/ | 3,508.0 | 3,640.0 | Tons | 1.45 | 1.44 | Tons | 5,083.8 | 5,231.4 |
| Corn for Grain | 86,542.0 | 79,290.0 | Tons | 4.23 | 4.26 | Tons | 366,069.0 | 338,026.2 |
| Rice, All 2/ | 2,748.0 | 2,924.0 | Cwt. | 71.85 | 70.76 | Cwt. | 197,456.0 | 206,914.0 |
| Long 7/ | 2,052.0 | 2,297.0 | Cwt. | 69.29 | 3/ | Cwt. | 142,182.0 | 157,348.0 |
| Medium 7/ | 630.0 | 576.0 | Cwt. | 81.24 | 3/ | Cwt. | 51,184.0 | 46,285.0 |
| Short 7/ | 66.0 | 51.0 | Cwt. | 61.97 | 3/ | Cwt. | 4,090.0 | 3,281.0 |
| Cotton, Upland 4/ | 10,201.0 | 7,660.0 | Lbs. | 864.00 | 839.00 | Bales | 18,355.1 | 13,387.0 |
| Cotton, American-Pima 4/ | 288.1 | 170.0 | Lbs. | 1,419.00 | 1,296.00 | Bales | 851.8 | 459.0 |
| Sugar Beets 5/ | 1,246.8 | 1,057.7 | Tons | 25.60 | 24.70 | Tons | 31,912.0 | 26,089.0 |
| Beans, Dry Edible 1/ 6/ | 1,478.7 | 1,353.6 | Cwt. | 17.16 | 17.86 | Cwt. | 25,371.0 | 24,172.0 |
| Hay, All 1/ | 61,625.0 | 60,439.0 | Tons | 2.44 | 2.45 | Tons | 150,304.0 | 147,955.0 |
| Alfalfa Hay 1/ | 21,670.0 | 20,778.0 | Tons | 3.35 | 3.41 | Tons | 72,575.0 | 70,944.0 |
| Other Hay 1/ | 39,955.0 | 39,661.0 | Tons | 1.95 | 1.94 | Tons | 77,729.0 | 77,011.0 |

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

2/ Sweet rice acreage and production included with short grain.

3/ Data will be released January 2009.

4/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480-pound net weight bales.

5/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all states, except California. In California, related to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central California and to year of planting for over-wintered beets in central and southern California.

6/ Data exclude beans grown for garden seed.

7/ The 2008 rice production by class estimates are based on class harvested acreage estimates and the 5-year average class yield compared to the all rice yield.

FIELD CROP PRODUCTION

(Continued from Page 1)

RICE: California's 2008 rice crop forecast, at 40.3 million cwt., is 8 percent below last year. The 517 thousand acres for harvest is down 3 percent from the previous year. The yield is forecast at 7,800 pounds per acre, 5 percent below last year.

The 2008 **U.S.** rice production is forecast at 207 million cwt., 5 percent more than last year. The area for harvest is expected to total 2.92 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The yield is forecast at 7,076 pounds per acre, 109 pounds below the 2007 record yield of 7,185 pounds per acre. However, if realized, this will be the second highest yield on record.

SUGAR BEETS: California sugar beet production is forecast at 1.21 million tons, down 18 percent from 2007. Harvested acreage is estimated at 30.9 thousand acres, 21 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 39.1 tons per acre, 4 percent more than last year.

The **U.S.** sugar beet production is forecast at 26.1 million tons, down 18 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is 15 percent below last year, and expected yields are 4 percent below 2007.

CORN: California's 2008 corn for grain production forecast is 1.05 million tons, 5 percent above 2007. Acreage for harvest, at 215 thousand acres, was up 8 percent from last year. The forecast yield, at 4.90 tons per acre, is 3 percent below a year earlier.

Nationally, corn for grain production is forecast at 338 million tons, 8 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 4.26 tons per acre. The area for harvest is expected to total 79.3 million acres.



SUMMER POTATO PRODUCTION

California's 2008 summer potato production is expected to be 2.34 million cwt, 7 percent below last year's production. Acreage for harvest is down 14 percent, but yields are expected to average a record high 390 cwt. per acre, 8 percent more than last year. The crop progressed normally and most growers reported good quality potatoes. Harvest was expected to continue through September.

The U.S. production of summer potatoes is forecast at 14.9 million cwt., up 2 percent from the July 1 forecast, but down 12 percent from 2007. Harvested acres are estimated at 46.2 thousand acres, 2 percent above the July forecast, but 10 percent below last year. If realized, this will be the lowest harvested acreage on record. Average yield is forecast at 324 cwt. per acre, up 3 cwt. from July, but down 8 cwt. from 2007.

In Missouri, farmers reported excessive wet conditions negatively impacted yields and potato quality. Colorado's growing conditions were reported as good with harvest starting later than normal due to delayed planting and early hail damage. In Alabama, some growers reported drought-like conditions, while others commented on having a good year. Many growers started harvest in June, and in some cases, were done by late July. Growing conditions in New Jersey were rated fair and harvest was expected to be completed by the end of October. In Virginia, timely rains during spring followed by hot temperatures benefitted growth.

SUMMER POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION

| State | Harvested Acres | | Yield | | Production | |
|-------------|-----------------|------|-------|------|------------|--------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| | 1,000 Acres | | Cwt. | | 1,000 Cwt. | |
| Alabama | 1.3 | 1.3 | 140 | 180 | 182 | 234 |
| California | 7.0 | 6.0 | 360 | 390 | 2,520 | 2,340 |
| Colorado 1/ | 2.7 | 4.0 | 350 | 360 | 945 | 1,440 |
| Delaware | 2.0 | 1.9 | 270 | 250 | 540 | 475 |
| Illinois | 6.1 | 5.3 | 400 | 395 | 2,440 | 2,094 |
| Kansas | 4.9 | 4.8 | 365 | 310 | 1,789 | 1,488 |
| Maryland | 3.0 | 2.7 | 320 | 290 | 960 | 783 |
| Missouri | 6.6 | 6.0 | 300 | 240 | 1,980 | 1,440 |
| New Jersey | 2.4 | 2.0 | 265 | 220 | 636 | 440 |
| Texas | 9.8 | 6.5 | 395 | 420 | 3,871 | 2,730 |
| Virginia | 5.4 | 5.7 | 210 | 260 | 1,134 | 1,482 |
| U.S. 1/ | 51.2 | 46.2 | 332 | 324 | 16,997 | 14,946 |

1/ Data for 2007 Revised.

OFF FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in California mills and warehouses on August 1, 2008 totaled 413 thousand cwt., 30 percent below the 591 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Nationally, milled rice stocks in all positions on August 1 totaled 3.58 million cwt., 15 percent above the comparable figure for a year ago.

Rough rice stocks in California mills and off-farm warehouses totaled 5.75 million cwt. on August 1, 2008. This was 22 percent below the 7.41 million cwt. of stocks on hand a year earlier. Nationally, rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 2008 totaled 24.4 million cwt., down 30 percent from the total on August 1, 2007.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

| Type of Rice | CALIFORNIA | | UNITED STATES | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------|---------------|--------|
| | August 1 | | August 1 | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| | 1,000 Cwt. | | | |
| ROUGH RICE TOTAL | 7,407 | 5,746 | 34,933 | 24,376 |
| Long Grain 1/ | --- | --- | 25,738 | 16,101 |
| Medium Grain | 6,450 | 4,409 | 8,372 | 7,196 |
| Short Grain 1/ | --- | --- | 823 | 1,079 |
| MILLED RICE TOTAL | 591 | 413 | 3,111 | 3,575 |
| Whole Kernels Total | 420 | 413 | 2,573 | 2,632 |
| Long Grain 1/ | --- | 4 | 1,989 | 2,065 |
| Medium Grain | 369 | 353 | 536 | 508 |
| Short Grain 1/ | --- | 56 | 48 | 59 |
| Broken Kernels Total 1/ | 171 | --- | 538 | 943 |
| Second Heads 1/ | --- | --- | 307 | 488 |
| Screenings 1/ | --- | --- | 81 | 206 |
| Brewers 1/ | --- | --- | 150 | 249 |

1/ California data not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

| Month | Season | | |
|--------------|------------|---------|---------|
| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| | 1,000 Cwt. | | |
| December 1 | 30,395 | 35,672 | 38,189 |
| March 1 | 21,195 | 24,129 | 27,523 |
| June 1 a/ | --- | --- | 13,484 |
| August 1 | 7,924 | 7,407 | 5,746 |
| October 1 b/ | 3,676 | 2,995 | --- |

a/ Estimates began in 2008.

b/ Data for 2007-08 released October 30, 2008.

PRICES RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA FARMERS - August 2008

Prices received by California farmers at mid-August were above July for all potatoes, summer potatoes, all hay, and alfalfa hay. Other hay remained the same as July. Mid-August prices for wheat and barley were not published to avoid disclosure of individual buyers. There were insufficient sales to establish a mid-month price for oats, dry edible beans, and Upland cotton lint. Prices were above a year earlier for all potatoes, summer potatoes, and all types of hay.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 155 percent based on 1990-92=100, decreased four points (2.5 percent) from July. The Crop Index is down seven points (3.8 percent) and the Livestock Index declined one point (0.7 percent). Producers received lower prices for corn, broilers, soybeans, and milk. Higher prices were realized for wheat, hogs, eggs, and strawberries. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and potatoes offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 16 points (12 percent) from August 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 153, decreased three points (1.9 percent) from last month, but increased 11 points (7.7 percent) from August 2007.

The August All Crops Index is 175, down 3.8 percent from July, but 23 percent above August 2007. Index decreases for oil-bearing crops, potatoes & dry beans, feed grains & hay, and commercial vegetables more than offset the index increases for food grains and fruits & nuts.

The August Food Grains Index, at 268, is 11 percent above the previous month and 45 percent above a year ago. The August all wheat price, at \$267.33 per ton, is up \$28.66 from July and \$79.33 above August 2007.

The August Feed Grains & Hay Index is 216, down 4 percent from last month, but 44 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$175.00 per ton, is down \$12.14 from last month, but \$58.57 above August 2007. The all hay price, at \$165.00 per ton, is up \$1.00 from July and \$41.00 from last August. Sorghum grain, at \$8.26 per cwt., is 81 cents below July, but \$2.33 above August last year.

The August Cotton Index, at 98, is unchanged from July, but 32 percent above last year. The August price, at 59.4 cents per pound, is up 0.1 cent from the previous month and 14.5 cents above last August.

The August Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 196, is down 6.2 percent from last month, but 63 percent above August 2007. The all potato price, at \$11.32 per cwt., is down \$1.01 from July, but up \$4.47 from last August. The all dry bean price, at \$39.60 per cwt., is up \$3.10 from the previous month and \$13.90 above August 2007.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

| Commodity | Unit | CALIFORNIA | | | UNITED STATES | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| | | August 2007 | July 2008 | Aug 15, 2008 | August 2007 | July 2008 | Aug 15, 2008 |
| Dollars | | | | | | | |
| Corn 2/ | Tons | --- | --- | --- | 116.43 | 187.14 | 175.00 |
| Wheat 2/ | Tons | 184.33 | 3/ | 3/ | 188.00 | 238.67 | 267.33 |
| Oats 2/ | Tons | 4/ | 4/ | 4/ | 140.00 | 216.25 | 198.13 |
| Barley 2/ | Tons | 3/ | 3/ | 3/ | 147.92 | 212.92 | 208.33 |
| Sorghum Grain 2/ | Cwt. | --- | --- | --- | 5.93 | 9.07 | 8.26 |
| Rice 2/ | Cwt. | --- | --- | --- | 10.10 | 17.20 | 17.70 |
| Dry Edible Beans 2/ | Cwt. | 36.30 | 49.10 | 4/ | 25.70 | 36.50 | 39.60 |
| All Potatoes 5/ | Cwt. | 12.10 | 19.20 | 22.80 | 6.85 | 12.33 | 11.32 |
| Winter | Cwt. | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Spring | Cwt. | --- | 19.50 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Summer | Cwt. | 12.10 | 19.20 | 22.80 | --- | --- | --- |
| Fall | Cwt. | --- | 15.00 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| All Hay, Baled 2/ | Tons | 149.00 | 197.00 | 198.00 | 124.00 | 164.00 | 165.00 |
| Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/ | Tons | 156.00 | 213.00 | 214.00 | 135.00 | 177.00 | 180.00 |
| Other Hay, Baled 2/ | Tons | 127.00 | 151.00 | 151.00 | 105.00 | 130.00 | 126.00 |
| Upland Cotton Lint 2/ | Lbs | 3/ | 4/ | 4/ | 0.449 | 0.593 | 0.594 |
| Cottonseed | Tons | 4/ | --- | --- | 4/ | --- | 4/ |

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

4/ Insufficient data to establish a price.

5/ Monthly average.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

| Index | 1910-14 = 100 | | | 1990-92 = 100 | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| | Aug 2007 | July 2008 1/ | Aug 2008 | Aug 2007 | July 2008 1/ | Aug 2008 |
| Prices Received | | | | | | |
| All Farm Products | 883 | 1,011 | 984 | 139 | 159 | 155 |
| All Crops | 699 | 897 | 862 | 142 | 182 | 175 |
| Food Grains | 588 | 769 | 853 | 185 | 242 | 268 |
| Feed Grains and Hay | 535 | 806 | 772 | 150 | 225 | 216 |
| Cotton | 380 | 501 | 502 | 74 | 98 | 98 |
| Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans | 605 | 1,056 | 992 | 120 | 209 | 196 |
| Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, | | | | | | |
| Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/ | 2,153 | 2,561 | 2,561 | 162 | 192 | 194 |
| Parity Ratio 3/ | 41 | 39 | 38 | 86 | 83 | 80 |

1/ Revised.

2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.

3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.