

# California Field Crop Review



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California's 1998 **American-Pima** cotton production is forecast at 345 thousand bales, 21 percent below last year's crop. The 180 thousand acres for harvest are 2 percent below last year. Harvest and second picking in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys were essentially complete by the end of December.

U.S. **Upland** cotton production for 1998 is estimated at 13.4 million bales, 27 percent below the 1997 output. Acreage harvested, at 10.5 million, was 20 percent below 1997, and yield, at 612 pounds, was 8 percent below the 1997 crop. U.S. **American-Pima** production is estimated at 430 thousand bales, down 22 percent from the 548 thousand bales produced in 1997. The 1998 harvested acreage, at 237 thousand, was down 5 percent from the 249 thousand harvested in 1997. The 1998 yield of 873 pounds per acre was 17 percent below the 1997 yield.

## CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES COTTON

California's 1998 **Upland** cotton production is forecast at 1.15 million bales as of January 1, unchanged from the December forecast, but 48 percent below last year. This is based on 620 thousand acres for harvest, with an average yield of 890 pounds per acre, up 5 percent from last month.

## FIELD CROP ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND U.S.

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1997	Forecast 1998	1997	Forecast 1998	Unit	1997	Forecast 1998	Unit	1997	Forecast 1998
-- 1,000 Acres --										
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>										
Wheat, Winter <sup>1/</sup>	510.0	500.0	400.0	380.0	Tons	2.10	1.80	Tons	840.0	684.0
Wheat, Durum	145.0	180.0	144.0	175.0	Tons	2.85	2.70	Tons	410.4	472.5
Oats <sup>1/</sup>	350.0	320.0	30.0	30.0	Tons	1.28	1.20	Tons	38.4	36.0
Barley <sup>1/</sup>	230.0	170.0	150.0	125.0	Tons	1.37	1.44	Tons	205.2	180.0
Corn, All	585.0	620.0	---	---	Tons	---	---	Tons	---	---
For Grain	---	---	265.0	260.0	Tons	4.76	4.48	Tons	1,261.4	1,164.8
For Silage	---	---	315.0	355.0	Tons	26.00	25.00	Tons	8,190.0	8,875.0
Rice, All	518.0	480.0	516.0	478.0	Cwt.	82.50	68.40	Cwt.	42,546.0	32,698.0
Long	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	Cwt.	77.00	59.70	Cwt.	693.0	537.0
Medium	493.0	435.0	491.0	433.0	Cwt.	82.60	69.90	Cwt.	40,557.0	30,267.0
Short	16.0	36.0	16.0	36.0	Cwt.	81.00	52.60	Cwt.	1,296.0	1,894.0
Cotton, All <sup>2/</sup>	1,065.0	850.0	1,059.0	800.0	Lbs.	1,191.00	897.00	Bales	2,628.2	1,495.0
Upland	880.0	650.0	875.0	620.0	Lbs.	1,202.00	890.00	Bales	2,191.0	1,150.0
American-Pima	185.0	200.0	184.0	180.0	Lbs.	1,141.00	920.00	Bales	437.2	345.0
Cottonseed	---	---	---	---	Tons	---	---	Tons	942.0	547.0
Sugar Beets <sup>3/</sup>	101.0	102.0	99.0	100.0	Tons	30.00	29.00	Tons	2,970.0	2,900.0
Beans, Dry, All <sup>4/</sup>	135.0	110.0	132.0	105.0	Cwt.	22.70	19.50	Cwt.	3,000.0	2,048.0
Hay, All	---	---	1,510.0	1,570.0	Tons	5.57	5.17	Tons	8,408.0	8,115.0
Alfalfa	---	---	950.0	1,020.0	Tons	7.20	6.50	Tons	6,840.0	6,630.0
Other	---	---	560.0	550.0	Tons	2.80	2.70	Tons	1,568.0	1,485.0
<b>UNITED STATES</b>										
Wheat, Winter <sup>1/</sup>	47,985.0	46,449.0	41,340.0	40,126.0	Tons	1.34	1.41	Tons	55,365.8	56,418.2
Wheat, Durum	3,310.0	3,805.0	3,177.0	3,728.0	Tons	0.83	1.14	Tons	2,633.5	4,232.1
Oats <sup>1/</sup>	5,068.0	4,902.0	2,813.0	2,765.0	Tons	0.95	0.97	Tons	2,675.9	2,674.0
Barley <sup>1/</sup>	6,706.0	6,340.0	6,198.0	5,867.0	Tons	1.39	1.44	Tons	8,637.1	8,458.7
Corn, All	79,537.0	80,187.0	---	---	Tons	---	---	Tons	---	---
For Grain	---	---	72,671.0	72,604.0	Tons	3.55	3.76	Tons	257,791.3	273,310.4
For Silage	---	---	6,054.0	5,919.0	Tons	16.10	16.00	Tons	97,192.0	94,525.0
Rice, All	3,125.0	3,345.0	3,103.0	3,317.0	Cwt.	58.97	56.69	Cwt.	182,992.0	188,051.0
Long	2,327.0	2,629.0	2,309.0	2,608.0	Cwt.	53.91	54.30	Cwt.	124,485.0	141,624.0
Medium	780.0	678.0	776.0	671.0	Cwt.	73.57	66.25	Cwt.	57,091.0	44,453.0
Short	18.0	38.0	18.0	38.0	Cwt.	78.67	51.95	Cwt.	1,416.0	1,974.0
Cotton, All <sup>2/</sup>	13,898.0	13,417.9	13,406.0	10,722.5	Lbs.	673.00	618.00	Bales	18,793.0	13,796.2
Upland	13,648.0	13,088.0	13,157.0	10,486.0	Lbs.	666.00	612.00	Bales	18,245.0	13,366.2
American-Pima	250.0	329.9	249.0	236.5	Lbs.	1,056.00	873.00	Bales	548.0	430.0
Cottonseed	---	---	---	---	Tons	---	---	Tons	6,934.6	5,181.6
Sugar Beets <sup>3/</sup>	1,459.3	1,497.9	1,428.3	1,451.6	Tons	20.90	22.50	Tons	29,886.0	32,660.0
Beans, Dry, All <sup>4/</sup>	1,869.8	2,010.1	1,758.8	1,913.9	Cwt.	16.70	16.11	Cwt.	29,370.0	30,828.0
Hay, All	---	---	61,084.0	60,016.0	Tons	2.50	2.52	Tons	152,536.0	151,338.0
Alfalfa	---	---	23,551.0	23,642.0	Tons	3.33	3.47	Tons	78,535.0	82,010.0
Other	---	---	37,533.0	36,374.0	Tons	1.97	1.91	Tons	74,001.0	69,328.0

<sup>1/</sup> Includes area planted in preceding fall.

<sup>2/</sup> Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480 pound net-weight bales.

<sup>3/</sup> Relates to year of intended harvest except for over-wintered spring planted beets.

<sup>4/</sup> Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

**CALIFORNIA RICE CROP DOWN 23 PERCENT**

California farmers produced 32.7 million cwt. of rice in 1998. This was 23 percent below the 42.5 million cwt. produced in 1997. The 1998 crop included 537 thousand cwt. of long grain rice, down 23 percent from the 693 thousand cwt. produced in 1997. Medium grain production totaled 30.3 million cwt., down 25 percent from the 1997 crop. Short grain production was 1,894 thousand cwt., 46 percent above the previous year. The overall yield of 6,840 pounds per acre was 17 percent below 1997. The 478 thousand acres harvested in 1998 were 7 percent below December 1997. United States 1998 rice production is estimated at 188.1 million cwt., 3 percent more than the 183.0 million cwt. harvested in 1997. Growers harvested 3.32 million acres in 1998. This was 7 percent above the 3.10 million acres harvested in 1997. Yields averaged 5,669 pounds per acre in 1998, 4 percent below the previous year's average of 5,897 pounds.

**CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 1 ROUGH RICE STOCKS**

California rough rice stocks in all positions on December 1 totaled 26.5 million cwt., down 23 percent from last year. Warehouses accounted for 23.4 million cwt. of the total rough rice stored. Estimates of on-farm rough rice stocks and stocks in mill storage were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**CALIFORNIA OFF-FARM ROUGH RICE STOCKS, 1996-99**

Month	Season		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
	- 1,000 Cwt. -		
October 1 (Carryover) 1/	4,647	4,515	4,747
December 1	35,031	34,664	26,545
March 1	20,377	23,670	
August 1	7,776	11,697	

1/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

**DECEMBER 1 ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS**

Type of Rice	1997	1998
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --	
<b>ROUGH RICE</b>		
Long Grain	1/	1/
Medium Grain	32,779	24,090
Short Grain	1/	1/
<b>TOTAL</b>	34,664	26,545
<b>MILLED RICE</b>		
<b>Whole Kernels (Head Rice)</b>		
Long Grain	17	22
Medium Grain	981	806
Short Grain	46	25
Total	1,044	853
<b>Broken Kernels</b>		
Second Heads 2/	275	121
Screenings	---	---
Brewers	37	23
Total	312	144
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,356	997

1/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

2/ Includes screenings.

**HAY STOCKS**

Stocks of all hay on California farms as of December 1, 1998 totaled 3.25 million tons. This was 103 percent above the 1.60 million tons on hand a year earlier. United States hay stocks on farms as of December 1, 1998 were 112 million tons. This was 9 percent above the 103 million tons on farms on December 1, 1997.

**HAY STOCKS ON FARMS**

State	May 1		December 1	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	----- 1,000 Tons -----			
California	160	420	1,598	3,246
Arizona	28	34	171	177
Nevada	61	151	708	857
Oregon	97	621	1,600	2,159
Utah	302	435	1,658	1,695
United States	17,424	21,827	103,044	111,839

**GRAIN STOCKS**

Stocks of wheat in California on December 1, 1998 totaled 663 thousand tons, 55 percent above the 428 thousand tons on hand a year earlier. U.S. stocks of all wheat, at 56.8 million tons, were up 17 percent from the 48.6 million tons on hand December 1, 1997.

Barley stocks in California on December 1, 1998 totaled 65.5 thousand tons, 18 percent above a year earlier. U.S. barley stocks, at 6.30 million tons, were 8 percent above the December 1, 1997 total.

Off-farm stocks of corn in California totaled 376 thousand tons on December 1, 1998. This was 2 percent above a year earlier. U.S. stocks of corn in all positions totaled 225 million tons, up 11 percent from a year earlier.

**GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS  
(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)**

Grain and Position	Dec. 1, 1997	Sept. 1, 1998	Dec. 1, 1998
<b>ALL WHEAT</b>	---- Tons ----		
California			
On-Farm	36,000	75,000	69,000
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	391,500	747,150	594,150
Total	427,500	822,150	663,150
U.S. Total	48,577,260	71,564,700	56,758,380
<b>BARLEY</b>			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	55,296	81,624	65,496
U.S. Total	5,857,464	7,827,648	6,298,152
<b>OATS</b>			
California			
Off Farm 1/ 2/	960	2,384	3,984
U.S. Total	2,308,016	2,589,040	2,293,456
<b>CORN</b>			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	368,088	57,792	376,348
U.S. Total	202,909,168	36,618,484	225,406,160
<b>SORGHUM GRAIN</b>			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	17,528	10,500	7,084
U.S. Total	10,468,332	1,369,284	9,344,468

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

2/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks for barley, corn, oats and sorghum are included in United States totals.

**WINTER AND DURUM WHEAT SEEDINGS**

California farmers are expected to seed 500 thousand acres to winter wheat for the 1999 crop. This is unchanged from the 1998 crop. Durum wheat is expected to be seeded on 110 thousand acres, down 39 percent from the 180 thousand acres seeded for 1998. Seeding had made good progress in California's San Joaquin Valley during October into early November. Seeding in the Imperial Valley started in late November, but was delayed by late vegetable harvests.

The U.S. winter wheat seeded area for 1999 is expected to total 43.4 million acres, down 7 percent from 1998. This is the smallest area since 1972. Arizona farmers expect to seed 80 thousand acres to Durum wheat, which is a 45 percent decrease from the 1998 crop. Durum wheat seeding for other states will be published in "Prospective Plantings," which is released March 31, 1999.

**ACRES SEEDED AND TO BE SEEDED**

Area	1997	1998	1999	1999/1998
	-- 1,000 Acres --			Percent
<b>WINTER WHEAT</b>				
California	510	500	500	100
United States	47,985	46,449	43,354	93
<b>DURUM WHEAT</b>				
California	145	180	110	61
Arizona	90	145	80	55
United States	3,310	3,805	1/	1/

1/ To be published in "Prospective Plantings" on March 31, 1999.

**CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - DECEMBER 1998**

Prices received by California farmers at mid-December were above November for dry edible beans, all potatoes, winter potatoes, all hay, alfalfa hay, upland cotton lint, and cottonseed. Fall potatoes and hay other than alfalfa were below the previous month. Mid-December and full month November prices for wheat and barley were not published due to possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, all potatoes, winter potatoes, and cottonseed. Prices for fall potatoes, all types of hay, and Upland cotton lint were below December 1997's level.

**U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS TWO POINTS**

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down two points (2.0 percent) from November. Price decreases from November for cattle, hogs, broilers, and soybeans more than offset price increases for corn, milk, tomatoes, and eggs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in December.

Compared with December 1997, the All Farm Products Index was seven points (6.7 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1997 for hogs, corn, cattle, and soybeans more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, oranges, and tomatoes.

The December All Crops Index was 100, down 2 percent from November and 9.9 percent below December 1997. From November, price decreases for fruit and nuts, cotton, oilseeds, and vegetables more than offset price increases for feed grains and hay, potatoes, and dry beans.

The December Food Grains Index, at 102, was down 2.9 percent from the previous month and 14 percent below December 1997. The December all wheat price, at \$4.83 per cwt., was down 12 cents from November and 90 cents below December 1997.

The December Feed Grains & Hay Index was 88, up 2.3 percent from last month, but 21 percent below December 1997. The corn price, at \$3.50 per cwt., was up five cents from November, but \$1.00 below the December 1997 price. The all hay price, at \$78.40 per ton, was down \$3.00 from last month and \$16.80 below December 1997.

**AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/**

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998	Dec. 15, 1998	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998	Dec. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
Corn 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.50	3.45	3.50
Wheat 2/	Cwt.	3/	3/	3/	5.73	4.95	4.83
Oats 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.91	3.44	3.34
Barley 2/	Cwt.	3/	3/	3/	5.06	4.21	4.08
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.94	3.05	3.06
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.67	8.98	9.19
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	29.60	31.90	37.80	20.30	20.80	21.30
All Potatoes 4/	Cwt.	11.20	8.75	12.20	5.29	4.81	5.08
Winter	Cwt.	19.20	18.10	20.10	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.55	7.10	6.70	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	122.00	87.00	94.00	95.20	81.40	78.40
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	123.00	89.00	97.00	102.00	85.00	81.40
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	107.00	51.00	49.00	76.10	69.30	69.40
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	0.775	0.757	0.758	0.638	0.651	0.636
Cottonseed	Ton	174.00	175.00	179.00	122.00	133.00	138.00

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 due to possible disclosure.

4/ Monthly average.

**U.S. INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS**

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	665	633 1/	623	105	100	98
All Crops	546	501 1/	492	111	102	100
Food Grains	378	335 1/	325	119	105 1/	102
Feed Grains and Hay	399	308 1/	313	112	86 1/	88
Cotton	539	550 1/	538	105	107 1/	105
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	476	450 1/	469	94	89	93
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,558	1,516 1/	1,515	117	114	114
Parity Ratio 3/	43	42	41	90	88	86

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.

### FALL POTATO STOCKS

Stocks of fall potatoes in California storage as of January 1, 1999 were estimated at 2.4 million cwt., a 4 percent increase from last year. The amount in storage on January 1 represents 65 percent of production, up ten percentage points from a year ago.

The 15 major potato states held 246 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, 1999, down slightly from last year and 6 percent below 1997. Storage accounted for 58 percent of 1998 fall production, down 2 percent from a year ago. Stocks by type were 2 percent reds; 10 percent round whites; 4 percent long white; and 84 percent russets; with more russets, but fewer long whites than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1 totaled 179 million cwt. this season, up 7 percent from last year, but 2 percent below the record high two years ago. December disappearance of 36.1 million cwt. was a record high for the month. Shrink and loss of 20.0 million cwt. was up 12 percent from last year, but 4 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 91.3 million cwt., up 9 percent from the 1997 crop, but 3 percent below the 1996 crop. In December, processors claimed 18.1 cwt. of potatoes, up 19 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago.

Eastern states stored 16.1 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, 1999, down 11 percent from a year ago and 17 percent below two years ago. Maine's holdings were down 11 percent and Pennsylvania's stocks were off 27 percent. New York's storage was equal to last year's.

### JANUARY 1 FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

State	Crop of 1997			Crop of 1998		
	Production	Stocks Jan. 1, 1998	Percent of Production	Production	Stocks Jan. 1, 1999	Percent of Production
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --		Percent	-- 1,000 Cwt. --		Percent
California	4,200	2,300	55	3,708	2,400	65
Idaho	140,314	91,500	65	139,650	90,500	65
Oregon	27,319	19,000	70	26,229	17,500	67
Washington	88,160	41,500	47	93,225	43,500	47
15-State Total	413,513	246,550	60	424,897	246,220	58