

California Field Crop Review



Frequency: Monthly
Released: May 17, 2001

(USPS 598-270)
VOL. 22 NO. 5



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Wheat Forecast and 2000 Cotton Revisions	1
Field Crop Prices	2
Spring Potatoes and Fall Potato Stocks	3
Hay Stocks	4

California's Durum wheat production is forecast at 243 thousand tons, down 16 percent from 2000. Acreage expected for harvest, at 81.0 thousand, is 16 percent below last year's acreage. The expected yield of 3.00 tons per acre remains the same as the previous year.

United States winter wheat production is forecast at 40.2 million tons, down 14 percent from 2000. Based on conditions as of May 1, the U.S. yield is expected to average 1.25 tons, 7 percent below May 2000. Harvested acreage was estimated at 32.1 million acres, down 8 percent from 2000.

The U.S. estimate for Durum Wheat production will not be available until July 11, 2001 for states other than Arizona and California.

WHEAT FORECAST

California farmers are expected to produce 855 thousand tons of winter wheat in 2001, up 16 percent from last year. The 380 thousand acres expected to be harvested for grain is 9 percent above last year. The yield is expected to average 2.25 tons per acre, up 7 percent from last year.

WHEAT FORECAST

Crop and Location	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	1,000 Acres		Tons		1,000 Tons	
WINTER California	350	380	2.10	2.25	735	855
UNITED STATES	35,022	32,088	1.34	1.25	46,882	40,241
DURUM California	97	81	3.00	3.00	291	243
Arizona	85	80	2.85	2.73	242	218
UNITED STATES	3,572	a/	0.92	b/	3,294	b/

a/ Published June 29, 2001.

b/ Published July 11, 2001.

2000 COTTON PRODUCTION

California farmers produced 2.21 million bales (480-lb. net weight) of Upland cotton in 2000, 40 percent more than the 1.58 million bales produced in 1999. Harvested acreage, at 770 thousand, was 27 percent above the 605 thousand harvested the previous year. The average yield was 1,378 pounds per acre, 124 pounds above 1999.

All cotton production in the United States totaled 17.2 million bales, 1 percent above the 1999 production level. The 2000 output is the eighth largest crop on record. Upland cotton production, at 16.8 million bales, was 3 percent above the previous year. American-Pima production totaled 389.1 thousand bales, down 42 percent from 1999.

American-Pima production in California totaled 346 thousand bales, down 43 percent from the 603 thousand bales produced the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 144 thousand, was 40 percent below the 239 thousand harvested in 1999. The average yield was 1,154 pounds per acre, 56 pounds below the previous year.

The area planted to all cotton totaled 15.5 million acres, up 4 percent from 1999. Harvested area was 13.1 million acres, down 3 percent from last year. The increase in planted acreage was attributable to the favorableness of cotton as an alternative crop during times of low prices. However, harvested acreage decreased from 1999 due to drought and high temperatures in the extreme Southeast and southern Plains regions. Yields for the U.S. averaged 632 pounds per harvested acre.

COTTON AND COTTONSEED

Item	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		1999	2000	1999	2000
UPLAND COTTON					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	610.0	775.0	14,584.0	15,347.0
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	605.0	770.0	13,138.0	12,884.0
Yield	Lbs./Acre	1,254.0	1,378.0	595.0	626.0
Production ^{1/}	1,000 Bales	1,580.0	2,210.0	16,293.7	16,799.2
Price ^{2/ 3/}	Cents/Lb.	56.2	69.4	45.0	56.0
Value	1,000 Dollars	426,221.0	736,195.0	3,519,439.0	4,515,625.0
AMERICAN-PIMA					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	240.0	145.0	289.5	170.2
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	239.0	144.0	286.9	169.0
Yield	Lbs./Acre	1,210.0	1,154.0	1,128.0	1,105.0
Production ^{1/}	1,000 Bales	602.7	346.3	674.3	389.1
Price ^{2/ 3/}	Cents/Lb.	85.1	97.5	85.2	95.8
Value	1,000 Dollars	246,191.0	162,068.0	275,762.0	178,924.0
COTTONSEED ^{4/}					
Production	1,000 Tons	799.0	909.0	6,353.5	6,435.6
Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Tons	86.0	60.0	3,340.2	3,452.2
Other Farm Disposition ^{5/}	1,000 Tons	713.0	849.0	3,013.3	2,983.4
Used for Planting ^{6/}	1,000 Tons	7.9	7.2	153.3	154.1
Price ^{2/ 3/}	Dollars/Ton	137.0	140.0	89.0	106.0
Value	1,000 Dollars	109,463.0	127,260.0	565,462.0	682,174.0
Value of Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Dollars	11,782.0	8,400.0	297,278.0	365,933.0

^{1/} Revised 2000 data. Net weight bales are 480 lbs.

^{2/} Marketing year average price.

^{3/} The 2000 data is an average to January 1, 2001.

^{4/} Revised 1999 crop, preliminary 2000 crop.

^{5/} Includes planting seed, exports, inter-farm sales, shrinkage, losses, and other uses.

^{6/} Included in "other" farm disposition. Planting seed from previous year's crop.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - APRIL 2001

Mid-April prices received by California farmers increased from March for dry edible beans, winter potatoes, all hay, and alfalfa hay. All potatoes, fall potatoes, and hay other than alfalfa were below the previous month's level. Wheat, barley, and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for winter potatoes, and all types of hay, while dry edible beans remained unchanged. All potatoes, and fall potatoes were below April 2000's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES FOUR POINTS

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 107 based on 1990-92=100, up four points (3.9 percent) from the March Index. Higher prices for strawberries, milk, oranges, and hay were partially offset by lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, soybeans, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers' sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, milk, cucumbers, and broilers were partially offset by lower marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs.

Compared with April 2000, the All Farm Products Index was seven points (7.0 percent) higher. Since April 2000, price increases for milk, strawberries, cattle, and broilers were partially offset by lower prices for lettuce, soybeans, corn, and tomatoes.

The April All Crops Index was 106, up 8.2 percent from March and 3.9 percent above April 2000. From March, index increases for fruits, nuts, and cotton more than offset index decreases for tobacco, vegetables, and oil-bearing crops.

The April Food Grains Index, at 91, was down 1.1 percent from the previous month, but 7.1 percent above April 2000. The April all wheat price, at \$4.73 per cwt., was down five cents from March, but 45 cents above April 2000.

The April Feed Grains & Hay Index, at 90, was unchanged from last month, but 1.1 percent below April 2000. The corn price, at \$3.41 per cwt., was down seven cents from last month and 22 cents below April 2000. The all hay price, at \$94.80 per ton, was \$7.60 above March and \$16.60 above last April. Grain sorghum, at \$3.34 per cwt., was up five cents from March and 10 cents above April of last year.

The April Potatoes and Dry Beans Index, at 92, was 1.1 percent below last month, but 13 percent below April 2000. The all potato price, at \$5.47 per cwt., was down nine cents from the previous month and 99 cents below last April. A seasonal upward price trend since November was interrupted by a shift from winter to spring potatoes. The dry edible bean price, at \$15.50 per cwt., was 50 cents above last month, but 20 cents below April 2000.

The April Cotton Index, at 72, was up 1.4 percent from March, but 4.0 percent below April 2000. The April price, at 43.6 cents per pound, was up 0.4 cents from the previous month, but 1.8 cents below last April.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 2000	March 2001	Apr. 15, 2001	April 2000	March 2001	Apr. 15, 2001
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.63	3.48	3.41
Wheat 2/	Cwt.	3/	3/	3/	4.28	4.78	4.73
Oats 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.22	3.88	4.03
Barley 2/	Cwt.	4.96	3/	3/	4.35	4.31	4.08
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.24	3.29	3.34
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.75	5.55	5.52
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	27.00	26.60	27.00	15.70	15.00	15.50
All Potatoes 4/	Cwt.	14.30	12.10	6.70	6.46	5.56	5.47
Winter	Cwt.	17.20	22.60	22.70	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.10	5.40	5.30	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	100.00	110.00	111.00	78.20	87.20	94.80
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	101.00	111.00	112.00	81.90	93.70	100.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	74.00	99.00	92.00	67.40	71.30	74.20
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	3/	3/	3/	0.454	0.432	0.436
Cottonseed	Lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---

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 possible disclosure.

4/ Monthly average.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	April 2000	March 2001	April 2001	April 2000	March 2001	April 2001
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	636	656 1/	682	100	103 1/	107
All Crops	504	484 1/	523	102	98 1/	106
Food Grains	271	291 1/	289	85	92 1/	91
Feed Grains and Hay	325	322 1/	322	91	90 1/	90
Cotton	384	365 1/	369	75	71 1/	72
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	539	470 1/	466	106	93 1/	92
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,589 1/	1,640 1/	1,647	119	123 1/	124
Parity Ratio 3/	40 1/	40	41	84 1/	84	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.

SPRING POTATOES

California's spring potato production forecast was 6.05 million cwt., down 9 percent from last month and 19 percent below a year ago. Area for harvest is estimated to be 15.5 thousand acres, down 18 percent from a year ago. The estimated average yield, at 390 cwt. per acre, is 1 percent less than last year. California's harvest season is anticipated to start in May, about two weeks later than usual, because of cool weather early in the growing season.

Nationally, the 2001 spring potato production forecast was 19.5 million cwt., down 11 percent from last year. The May 1 forecast is 4 percent lower than April. Area for harvest is estimated at 72.5 thousand acres, down 4 percent from a year ago. The average yield is forecast at 269 cwt. per acre, down 21 cwt. from last year.

SPRING POTATOES

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
	2000	2001	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
	1,000 Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		
Alabama <u>1/</u>	---	---	---	---	280	---	---
Arizona	9.0	8.5	280	270	3,024	2,520	2,295
California	18.8	15.5	395	390	7,600	7,426	6,045
Florida	21.5	22.0	295	270	8,820	6,343	5,940
Hastings	16.5	16.5	295	270	6,930	4,868	4,455
Other	5.0	5.5	295	270	1,890	1,475	1,485
North Carolina <u>2/</u>	17.0	17.5	200	180	3,300	3,400	3,150
Texas	9.3	9.0	240	230	2,303	2,232	2,070
UNITED STATES	75.6	72.5	290	269	25,327	21,921	19,500

1/ Alabama spring potatoes combined with summer in 2000.

2/ North Carolina summer potatoes included with spring in 2000.

MAY 1 FALL POTATO STOCKS

California's fall potato stocks as of May 1, 2001 were estimated at 800 million cwt., 27 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 21 percent of the fall potato production, compared to 27 percent of the previous year.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled 170 million cwt. to May 1, up 1 percent from last year in comparable states. In April, processors used 18.7 million cwt. of potatoes, a gain of 2 percent from last year in comparable states.

The 15 major potato states held a record-high 111 million cwt. of potatoes on May 1, 2001, up 28 percent from last year and 27 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 24 percent of the fall storage states' production, up 3 percent from a year ago. This year's record-high stocks exceeded the record set May 1, 1997 by 8 percent.

Western states held 90.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2001, up 32 percent from the last year and 36 percent above two years ago. Washington's potato stocks were up 79 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's were up 25 percent. Oregon's stocks were up 11 percent and Montana's swelled 150 percent. Colorado's stocks remained the same as the previous year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 was a record-high 350 million cwt. This disappearance was up 5 percent from last year and 3 percent above the record set during the 1996 season. The disappearance during April was 42.6 million cwt., up 3 percent from last year, but 4 percent below the record in April 1997. Shrink and loss, to this point in the season, was 37.6 million cwt., up 29 percent from the last two years. This disappearance and loss total includes potatoes diverted and destroyed by growers under a cooperative program to reduce surpluses. Potatoes sold and disposed of under a government program are included in the disappearance.

MAY 1 FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS 1/

State	Crop of 1999			Crop of 2000		
	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 2000 <u>2/</u>	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 2001 <u>2/</u>	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	4,005	1,100	27	3,741	800	21
Colorado	25,762	7,400	29	27,972	7,400	26
Idaho	133,330	36,000	27	152,320	45,000	30
Maine	17,813	4,400	25	17,920	4,000	22
Michigan	14,963	1,300	9	14,963	700	5
Minnesota	18,020	3,200	18	21,240	5,800	27
Montana	3,325	300	9	3,503	750	21
Nebraska	8,904	---	---	10,127	---	---
New York	6,758	---	---	5,964	---	---
North Dakota	26,400	4,500	17	26,950	6,300	23
Ohio	987	---	---	1,134	---	---
Oregon	28,020	9,000	32	30,683	10,000	33
Pennsylvania	3,080	150	5	3,510	100	3
Washington	95,200	14,500	15	108,000	26,000	24
Wisconsin	34,000	4,400	13	33,800	3,700	11
Other States	---	665	---	---	875	---
15-STATE TOTAL	420,567	86,915	21	461,827	111,425	24

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2001 potatoes. Crop seed usage for 2000 totaled 29.7 million cwt.

2/ Nebraska, New York, and Ohio are combined into "Other States."

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of hay on California farms as of May 1, 2001 totaled 180 thousand tons. This was 9 percent of the December 1 stocks and 53 percent below May 1, 2000.

United States May 1 hay stocks on farms totaled 21.1 million tons of hay. This was 20 percent of the December 1 stocks and 27 percent below May 1 of the previous year.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000	2001
	1,000 Tons					
California	3,246	2,285	1,954	428	381	180
Arizona	177	184	202	28	27	33
Nevada	857	867	801	233	290	112
Oregon	2,159	2,245	1,766	135	128	241
Utah	1,695	1,540	1,350	485	320	200
UNITED STATES	112,066	108,922	103,730	24,817	28,817	21,106