

# California Field Crop Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Farm Prices.....	1
Fall Potato Stocks — Crop Yield and Production History.....	2

## CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - FEBRUARY 2004

Mid-February prices received by California farmers increased from January for dry edible beans, fall potatoes, all hay, and alfalfa hay. Mid-February prices for all potatoes, winter potatoes, and Upland cotton lint were below the previous month. Hay other than alfalfa remained the same as the previous month. Wheat and cottonseed were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There was insufficient data to establish a mid-February price for barley. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, all potatoes, and fall potatoes. Winter potatoes and all types of hay were below February 2003's level.

### U.S. FEBRUARY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 2 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February is 113 based on 1990-92=100, two points (1.8 percent) above the January Index. The Livestock Products Index increased one point (0.9 percent) from January, while the All Crops Index increased two points (1.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, broilers, corn, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, lettuce, eggs, and broccoli. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affect the overall index. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco, and wheat.

The February All Crops Index is 115, up 1.8 percent from January and 11 percent above February 2003. Index increases from January for fruits and nuts, oil-bearing crops, and feed grains and hay offset decreases for commercial vegetables, food grains, and tobacco. The index remains unchanged for potatoes and dry beans and other crops.

The February Food Grains Index, at 119, is down 3.3 percent from the previous month, but 12 percent above February 2003. The February all wheat price, at \$122.67 per ton, is unchanged from January, but 66 cents below February 2003.

The February Feed Grains & Hay Index is 110, up 4.8 percent from last month and 3.8 percent above February 2003. The corn price, at \$91.07 per ton, is up \$5.71 from January and \$7.50 above February 2003. The all hay price, at \$79.90 per ton, is 60 cents above January, but \$11.50 below last February. Grain sorghum, at \$4.58 per cwt., is up 22 cents from January and 44 cents above February 2003.

The February Cotton Index, at 102, is down 1.0 percent from January, but 32 percent above February 2003. The February price, at 61.6 cents per pound, is down 0.9 cents from the previous month, but 15.1 cents above last February.

The February Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 97, is unchanged from January, but 13 percent below February 2003. The all potato price, at \$5.62 per cwt., is down 13 cents from January and 71 cents below last February. The all dry bean price, at \$19.60 per cwt., is up \$2.60 from the previous month and 40 cents above February 2003.

## FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2003	January 2004	February 2004	February 2003	January 2004	Feb. 15, 2004
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Ton	---	---	---	83.57	85.36	91.07
Wheat 2/	Ton	3/	3/	3/	123.33	122.67	122.67
Oats 2/	Ton	---	---	---	131.88	91.25	94.38
Barley 2/	Ton	3/	3/	4/	119.58	112.92	109.17
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.14	4.36	4.58
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.24	8.19	7.55
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	32.60	35.00	37.00	19.20	17.00	19.60
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	15.50	17.00	16.60	6.33	5.75	5.62
Winter	Cwt.	23.40	19.30	19.10	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.70	9.65	9.65	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	100.00	88.00	90.00	91.40	79.30	79.90
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	102.00	89.00	92.00	96.20	83.60	84.70
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	87.00	81.00	81.00	81.70	71.40	69.90
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	3/	0.696	0.686	0.465	0.625	0.616
Cottonseed	Ton	130.00	3/	3/	110.00	127.00	140.00

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 to avoid possible disclosure.

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		
	Feb. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Feb. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	628	706 1/	718	99	111	113
All Crops	511	556 1/	569	104	113 1/	115
Food Grains	336	389	379	106	123 1/	119
Feed Grains and Hay	380	375 1/	395	106	105 1/	110
Cotton	393	528 1/	521	77	103 1/	102
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	560	490 1/	493	111	97	97
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,698	1,728 1/	1,730	128	130	130
Parity Ratio 3/	37	41	42	77	85	87

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 PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS**

Fall potatoes in California storage facilities totaled 1.80 million cwt. as of March 1, 2004, 10 percent less than a year ago.

California's March 1 stocks were 52 percent of the fall potato production, and an 11 percent increase from last year's 47 percent.

**FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS BY STATE 1/**

State	Crop of 2002			Crop of 2003		
	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 2003	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 2004	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	4,264	2,000	47	3,444	1,800	52
Colorado	27,885	13,100	47	23,652	10,300	44
Idaho	133,385	62,000	46	123,180	58,000	47
Maine	16,960	8,000	47	17,030	8,900	52
Michigan	13,878	4,500	32	15,015	4,700	31
Minnesota	18,700	7,400	40	22,330	9,600	43
Montana	3,224	2,800	87	3,339	2,900	87
Nebraska	8,611	2/	2/	9,860	2/	2/
New York	5,500	600	11	6,510	1,500	23
North Dakota	23,460	10,000	43	27,440	13,000	47
Ohio	903	2/	2/	1,290	2/	2/
Oregon	24,936	9,900	40	20,991	11,000	52
Pennsylvania	2,590	600	23	3,915	700	18
Washington	92,400	30,500	33	93,150	29,500	32
Wisconsin	31,125	11,000	35	32,800	11,000	34
Other States	---	2,910	---	---	3,790	---
<b>15-STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>407,821</b>	<b>165,310</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>403,946</b>	<b>166,690</b>	<b>41</b>

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2004 crop. Seed usage in 2003 totaled 28.3 million cwt. 2/ Combined into "Other States."

**CALIFORNIA FIELD CROPS YIELD AND PRODUCTION HISTORY**

Crop	Unit	Yield				Production			
		2002	2003	Record High	Record Year	2002	2003	Record High	Record Year
Barley	Tons	1.63	1.54	1.68	1995	122,400	89,100	1,996,896	1957
Beans, Dry	Cwt.	19.80	18.70	22.70	1997	1,762,000	1,403,000	4,109,000	1955
Corn for Grain	Tons	4.76	4.48	4.76	1994 & 1999-2002	714,000	761,600	1,428,000	1984
Cotton, Upland Lint	1/	1,469.00	1,321.00	1,469.00	2002	1,460,000	1,500,000	3,535,000	1981
Cottonseed	Tons	--	--	--	--	731,000	662,000	1,445,000	1981
Hay, All	Tons	5.85	5.93	5.93	2003	9,594,000	9,310,000	9,594,000	2002
Hay, Alfalfa	Tons	7.10	7.00	7.20	1997 & 2001	8,094,000	7,630,000	8,094,000	2002
Hay, Other	Tons	3.00	3.50	3.50	1995 & 2003	1,500,000	1,680,000	1,855,000	1995
Oats	Tons	1.28	1.28	1.36	1995 & 1999	34,600	44,800	121,312	1957
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	391.00	402.00	402.00	2003	17,017,000	17,319,000	35,166,000	1966
Potatoes, Sweet	Cwt.	265.00	300.00	300.00	2003	2,756,000	3,120,000	3,120,000	2003
Rice	Cwt.	81.40	76.20	85.00	1992 & 1994	42,989,000	38,624,000	43,585,000	2000
Sugar Beets	Tons	39.50	36.50	39.50	2002	1,971,000	1,832,000	9,031,000	1972
Wheat, All	Tons	2.42	2.11	2.53	1988	945,000	1,022,100	3,166,350	1981

1/ Yield in pounds, production in bales.