

California Field Crop Review



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MARCH 1, 2005 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

California's March intentions estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,000 California farmers. The survey was conducted March 1-15, but referred to farmers' intentions on **March 1**. Therefore, the impact of weather or market conditions since that date is not reflected in this report.

COTTON: On March 1, **California** farmers were intending to plant 480 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2005. If realized, this would be 14 percent below the acreage seeded in 2004. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 240 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2005, 12 percent above the 215 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2005 are expected to total 13.8 million acres, 1 percent above last year.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 560 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, 4 percent above last year. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 81.4 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, up 1 percent from the previous year's acreage.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 250 thousand acres of oats, 4 percent above last year. **U.S.** producers planned to seed 4.27 million, up 4 percent from last year's planted area.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 500 thousand acres, 11 percent below the previous year. Another 90.0 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 25 percent below the 120 thousand acres seeded for 2004. At the **U.S.** level, 2005's all wheat planted area is expected to total 58.6 million acres, down 2 percent from 2004. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous year's acreage. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 2.61 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 560 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 6 percent less than the 595 thousand acres seeded in 2004. The expressed intentions were to seed 510 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 6.00 thousand to long grain, and 44.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Last year farmers seeded 540 thousand acres to medium grain, 7.00 thousand to long grain, and 48.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 3.36 million acres this year, up less than 1 percent from 2004.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 100 thousand acres to barley, 9 percent above the previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 3.97 million acres for 2005, down 12 percent from last year.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers had planted or intended to plant 49.0 thousand acres of sugar beets as of March 1. This is 1 percent less than the 2004 crop year. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2005 crop year is expected to total 1.30 million acres, 3 percent below the 2004 planted acreage.

BEANS, DRY EDIBLE: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 60.0 thousand acres in **California**, unchanged from the acres seeded last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.66 million acres of dry edible beans in 2005, up 23 percent from last year.

HAY, ALL: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.60 million acres as of March 1, 3 percent above the 1.55 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 62.9 million acres of hay in 2005, up 2 percent from the 61.9 million acres harvested in 2004.

POTATOES, SWEET: **California** growers intend to plant 11.2 thousand acres in 2005, 3 percent below 2004. **U.S.** growers intend to plant 94.9 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, down 3 percent from last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	2003	2004	Indicated 2005	2005 2004
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat, Winter ^{1/}				
California	740.0	560.0	500.0	89
U.S.	45,384.0	43,350.0	41,613.0	96
Wheat, Durum				
California ^{1/}	130.0	120.0	90.0	75
U.S.	2,915.0	2,561.0	2,608.0	102
Oats ^{1/}				
California	260.0	240.0	250.0	104
U.S.	4,597.0	4,085.0	4,267.0	104
Barley ^{1/}				
California	100.0	110.0	100.0	91
U.S.	5,348.0	4,527.0	3,974.0	88
Corn, All				
California	530.0	540.0	560.0	104
U.S.	78,603.0	80,930.0	81,413.0	101
Rice				
California:				
All	509.0	595.0	560.0	94
Long	7.0	7.0	6.0	86
Medium	460.0	540.0	510.0	94
Short ^{2/}	42.0	48.0	44.0	92
U.S.:				
All	3,022.0	3,347.0	3,358.0	100
Long	2,332.0	2,587.0	2,681.0	104
Medium	647.0	711.0	632.0	89
Short	43.0	49.0	45.0	92
Cotton, Upland				
California	550.0	560.0	480.0	86
U.S.	13,301.0	13,409.0	13,540.0	101
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	150.0	215.0	240.0	112
U.S.	178.6	249.6	275.0	110
Beans, Dry Edible ^{3/}				
California	77.0	60.0	60.0	100
U.S.	1,406.1	1,354.3	1,663.5	123
Sugar Beets				
California ^{4/}	50.8	49.5	49.0	99
U.S. ^{5/}	1,365.4	1,346.0	1,299.0	97
Hay, All ^{6/}				
California	1,620.0	1,550.0	1,600.0	103
U.S.	63,383.0	61,916.0	62,940.0	102
Potatoes, Sweet				
California	10.7	11.5	11.2	97
U.S.	95.8	97.4	94.9	97

^{1/} Includes area planted in preceding fall.

^{2/} Includes sweet rice.

^{3/} Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

^{4/} Relates to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central California and to year of planting for overwintered beets in central and southern California.

^{5/} Relates to year of intended harvest in all states, except California.

^{6/} Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - MARCH 2005

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for dry edible beans, all potatoes, winter potatoes, and all types of hay. Fall potatoes remained the same as the previous month. Mid-month prices for wheat and barley were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans and all types of hay. All potatoes, winter potatoes, and fall potatoes were below March 2004's level.

U.S. FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP FOUR POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 118, based on 1990-92=100, is four points (3.5 percent) above the February Index. The Crop Index is up seven points (6.6 percent), while the Livestock Index is up three points (2.5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, lettuce, and corn. Lower prices were received for strawberries, grapefruit, apples, and eggs. 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 strawberries, dairy, broilers, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, oranges, and cotton.

The March All Crops Index is 113, up 6.6 percent from February, but 6.6 percent below March 2004. Index increases from February were observed for all crop commodities, except "other crops" which is unchanged.

The March Food Grains Index, at 114, is up 4.6 percent from the previous month, but 10 percent below March 2004. The March all wheat price, at \$117.67 per ton, is up \$5.67 from the February price, but \$10.00 below March 2004. The March rice price, at \$6.97 per cwt., is up 18 cents from February, but \$1.48 below a year ago.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 95, up 5.6 percent from last month, but 19 percent below March 2004. The corn price, at \$72.50 per ton, is up \$2.86 from February, but \$25.71 below March 2004. The all hay price, at \$89.10 per ton, is up \$4.40 from last month and \$7.30 above March 2004. Grain sorghum, at \$3.17 per cwt., is up 22 cents from February, but \$1.67 below March last year.

The March Cotton Index, at 70, is up 9.4 percent from a month ago, but 31 percent below March 2004. The cotton price, at 42.2 cents per pound, is up 3.2 cents from February, but 19.4 cents below a year ago.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 110, is 4.8 percent above both last month and March 2004. The all potato price, at \$6.16 per cwt., is up 40 cents from the previous month and seven cents above last March. The dry edible bean price, at \$27.40 per cwt., is 40 cents below last month, but \$7.20 above a year ago.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2004	February 2005	March 2005	March 2004	February 2005	March 2005
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	98.21	69.64	72.50
Wheat 2/	Tons	3/	3/	3/	127.67	112.00	117.67
Oats 2/	Tons	---	---	---	100.00	103.75	100.00
Barley 2/	Tons	3/	3/	3/	115.42	98.75	103.33
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.84	2.95	3.17
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	8.45	6.79	6.97
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	36.30	37.00	37.80	20.20	27.80	27.40
All Potatoes 4/	Cwt.	21.10	14.30	16.40	6.09	5.76	6.16
Winter	Cwt.	29.70	18.80	21.60	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	9.15	7.55	7.55	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Tons	104.00	125.00	126.00	81.80	84.70	89.10
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Tons	105.00	131.00	132.00	86.20	91.90	96.40
Other Hay, Baled	Tons	93.00	92.00	94.00	72.00	70.00	70.40
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs.	0.702	0.523	3/	0.616	0.390	0.422
Cottonseed	Tons	---	---	---	---	112.00	---

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 of operations.

4/ Monthly average.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	March 2004	February 2005	March 2005	March 2004	February 2005	March 2005
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	770	722 1/	749	121	114 1/	118
All Crops	596	524 1/	559	121	106	113
Food Grains	402	345 1/	361	127	109	114
Feed Grains and Hay	421	323 1/	338	118	90 1/	95
Cotton	521	330 1/	357	102	64 1/	70
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	530	533 1/	559	105	105 1/	110
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,758	1,796 1/	1,804	132	135 1/	135
Parity Ratio 3/	44	40	42	92	84	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.

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, 2005, **California** wheat stocks in all positions were 23 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm stocks of sorghum grain were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Off farm corn stocks were 55 percent above March 2004. Barley off-farm stocks were 30 percent above March 2004. Oats totaled 4.29 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. **U.S.** wheat stocks in all positions as of March 1 were 4 percent below a year earlier. Corn stocks were up 28 percent, and barley stocks were up 25 percent. U.S. oat stocks in all positions totaled 1.32 million tons, while sorghum grain stocks totaled 5.70 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2004 1/	Mar. 1, 2005
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	18,000	27,000	12,000
Off-Farm 2/	394,380	441,300	305,640
Total	412,380	468,300	317,640
U.S. Total	30,618,510	42,909,780	29,430,420
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	15,744	21,984	20,472
U.S. Total	3,669,264	5,903,424	4,576,344
OATS			
California			
Off Farm 2/ 3/	2,624	5,760	4,288
U.S. Total	1,520,224	1,678,608	1,320,416
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	141,596	282,800	218,904
U.S. Total	147,600,852	264,616,744	189,104,664
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/ 4/	6,636	8,568	----
U.S. Total	4,442,256	7,901,740	5,694,892

- 1/ Revised U.S. total.
- 2/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.
- 3/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks for barley, corn, oats and sorghum are included in United States totals.
- 4/ Off-farm data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in **California** mills and warehouses on March 1, 2005 totaled 2.13 million cwt. This was 32 percent below the 3.14 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 84 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks totaled 5.42 million cwt. in all positions on March 1, 14 percent below the comparable figure a year ago.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 31.4 million cwt. on March 1, 2005. This was 43 percent above the 22.0 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 26.9 million cwt., with the remainder in mill storage. **Nationally**, rough rice totaled 119 million cwt. in all positions on March 1, up 35 percent from the total on March 1, 2004.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1, 2004	Mar. 1, 2005	Mar. 1, 2004	Mar. 1, 2005
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	22,014	31,434	87,840	118,756
Long Grain 1/	---	---	59,671	79,967
Medium Grain	20,111	29,102	26,562	36,761
Short Grain 1/	---	---	1,607	2,028
MILLED RICE TOTAL	3,141	2,131	6,333	5,419
Whole Kernels Total	2,144	1,795	4,998	4,790
Long Grain	26	6	2,682	2,796
Medium Grain	1,997	1,724	2,194	1,925
Short Grain	121	65	122	69
Broken Kernels Total	997	336	1,335	629
Second Heads 2/	965	311	1,199	512
Screenings	---	---	22	28
Brewers	32	25	114	89

- 1/ California data not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.
- 2/ California figure includes screenings.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	36,759	33,380	44,111
March 1	24,091	22,014	31,434
August 1	7,043	9,422	---
October 1 a/	3,154	4,800	---

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

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS

California fall potato stocks were estimated at 900 thousand cwt. as of April 1, 2005, 10 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 23 percent of the 2004 fall production, compared to 28 percent of the previous year.

The 15 major potato States held 130 million cwt. of potatoes in storage April 1, 2005, up 3 percent from both last year and April 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 32 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percent above last year. Disappearance of 274 million cwt. from the start of harvest to April 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 26.8 million cwt., is up 6 percent from last year and 11 percent above the same date in 2003.

Processors have used 136 million cwt. of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. March usage, at 16.6 million cwt., is 3 percent below last year and down 8 percent from two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased 3 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processing decreased 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 27.8 million cwt. of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 91.6 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 6 percent from last year, but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's and Colorado's potato stocks are both up 13 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 2 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 26 percent, while Montana's sheds hold 13 percent less than last year.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS BY STATE 1/

State	Crop of 2003			Crop of 2004		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of Production
	Apr. 1, 2004 2/		Percent	Apr. 1, 2005 2/		Percent
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	3,528	1,000	28	3,876	900	23
Colorado	23,652	7,500	32	23,148	8,500	37
Idaho	123,180	46,000	37	131,970	52,000	39
Maine	17,030	6,500	38	19,220	7,500	39
Michigan	15,015	3,200	21	13,650	2,700	20
Minnesota	22,330	7,600	34	18,920	6,500	34
Montana	3,339	2,300	69	3,551	2,000	56
Nebraska	9,744	---	---	9,288	---	---
New York	6,510	300	5	5,184	320	6
North Dakota	27,440	11,200	41	26,765	10,300	38
Ohio	1,097	---	---	1,080	---	---
Oregon	20,991	8,400	40	19,775	6,200	31
Pennsylvania	3,375	400	12	2,640	600	23
Washington	93,150	21,500	23	93,810	22,000	23
Wisconsin	32,800	7,600	23	30,450	7,700	25
Other States	---	2,610	---	---	2,400	---
15-STATE TOTAL	403,181	126,110	31	403,327	129,620	32

- 1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2004 totaled 26.4 million cwt.
- 2/ Missing stocks combined into "Other States."

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

California's 2005 winter potato production forecast is 3.50 million cwt., 8 percent above a year ago. The area for harvest at 14.0 thousand acres, is 8 percent above last year. The average yield remained the same as the previous year at 250 cwt. per acre. Spring production, at 5.38 million cwt., is 35 percent below last year. Area for harvest is down 21 percent and the yield is down 18 percent from a year ago. Wet conditions have some growers expecting a late harvest. California's summer potato planted and harvested acreage for the 2004 crop year is estimated at 7.00 thousand acres. Harvesting of the Central Valley's summer crop was mostly completed on schedule. There were some occurrences of slow crop development and minor pest infestation, but the overall condition of the crop was good.

Nationally, the 2005 winter potato production is forecast at 5.07 million cwt., 9 percent above the January forecast, and 5 percent more than last year. Area for harvest, at 19.8 thousand acres, is up 7 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 256 cwt. per acre, is 4 cwt. below a year ago. Spring production in 2005 is forecast at 17.9 million cwt., down 21 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 63.1 thousand acres, 13 percent below 2004. The average yield is forecast at 284 cwt. per acre, down 30 cwt. from a year ago. The final production estimate for the 2004 U.S. summer potato crop is 18.4 million cwt., down 2 percent from both the preliminary estimate in the January Crop Production 2004 Summary and the 2003 crop. Harvested area covered 54.0 thousand acres, down 1 percent from the January estimate and down 8 percent from 2003. The average yield of 341 cwt. per acre is down 4 cwt. from the January preliminary estimate.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
WINTER								
California	13.0	14.0	13.0	14.0	250	250	3,250	3,500
Florida	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.8	285	270	1,568	1,566
U.S. Total	18.7	20.0	18.5	19.8	260	256	4,818	5,066
SPRING								
Arizona	6.2	4.0	6.2	4.0	285	280	1,767	1,120
California	17.5	13.8	17.5	13.8	475	390	8,313	5,382
Florida	24.8	23.6	24.5	23.2	313	302	7,678	7,014
Hastings	18.2	17.3	18.0	17.0	320	305	5,760	5,185
Other	6.6	6.3	6.5	6.2	295	295	1,918	1,829
No. Carolina	17.0	14.0	13.5	13.0	200	190	2,700	2,470
Texas	11.0	9.5	10.5	9.1	210	210	2,205	1,911
U.S. Total	76.5	64.9	72.2	63.1	314	284	22,663	17,897
SUMMER 1/								
California	7.0	---	7.0	---	350	---	2,450	---
Colorado	5.9	---	5.8	---	365	---	2,117	---
Texas	10.4	---	9.6	---	440	---	4,224	---
U.S. Total	58.5	---	54.0	---	341	---	18,429	---

1/ Revised data for 2004.