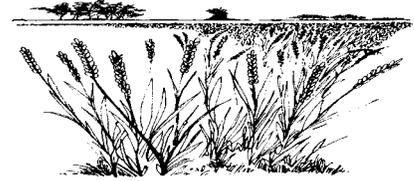


California Field Crop Review



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MARCH 1, 2006 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 310 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2006. If realized, this would be 28 percent below the acreage seeded in 2005. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 290 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2006, 26 percent above the 230 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2006 are expected to total 14.6 million acres, 3 percent above last year.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 520 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, 4 percent below last year. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 78.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, down 5 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, 7 percent below last year. **U.S.** producers planned to seed 4.32 million, up 2 percent from last year's planted area.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 430 thousand acres, 13 percent below the previous year. Another 70.0 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 7 percent below the 75.0 thousand acres seeded for 2005. At the **U.S.** level, 2006's all wheat planted area is expected to total 57.1 million acres, down slightly from 2005. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous year's acreage. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 1.83 million acres, down 34 percent from the previous year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 550 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 4 percent more than the 528 thousand acres seeded in 2005. The expressed intentions were to seed 485 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 10.0 thousand to long grain, and 55.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 2.97 million acres this year, down 12 percent from 2005.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 110 thousand acres to barley, 10 percent above the previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 3.67 million acres for 2006, down 5 percent from last year.

SORGHUM: On March 1, **California** farmers were expected to plant 32.0 thousand acres to sorghum, 23 percent above the previous year. **U.S.** sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes in 2006 is estimated at 6.48 million acres, up fractionally from 2005.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers had planted or intended to plant 44.4 thousand acres of sugar beets as of March 1, unchanged from the 2005 crop year. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2006 crop year is expected to total 1.37 million acres, 6 percent above the 2005 planted acreage.

BEANS, DRY EDIBLE: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 65.0 thousand acres in **California**, 2 percent below 2005. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.71 million acres of dry edible beans in 2006, up 3 percent from last year.

HAY, ALL: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.65 million acres as of March 1, 6 percent above the 1.55 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 61.5 million acres of hay in 2006, down fractionally from 2005.

SWEET POTATOES: **California** growers intend to plant 11.5 thousand acres in 2006, 2 percent below 2005. **U.S.** growers intend to plant 94.2 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, up 4 percent from last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	2004	2005	Indicated 2006	2006 2005
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat, Winter ^{1/}				
California	560.0	495.0	430.0	87
U.S.	43,350.0	40,433.0	41,404.0	102
Wheat, Durum ^{1/}				
California	120.0	75.0	70.0	93
U.S.	2,561.0	2,760.0	1,825.0	66
Oats ^{1/}				
California	240.0	270.0	250.0	93
U.S.	4,085.0	4,246.0	4,324.0	102
Sorghum				
California	28.0	26.0	32.0	123
United States	7,486.0	6,454.0	6,483.0	100
Barley ^{1/}				
California	110.0	100.0	110.0	110
U.S.	4,527.0	3,875.0	3,667.0	95
Corn, All				
California	540.0	540.0	520.0	96
U.S.	80,929.0	81,759.0	78,019.0	95
Rice				
California:				
All	595.0	528.0	550.0	104
Long	7.0	9.0	10.0	111
Medium	540.0	465.0	485.0	104
Short ^{2/}	48.0	54.0	55.0	102
U.S.:				
All	3,347.0	3,384.0	2,972.0	88
Long	2,587.0	2,751.0	2,310.0	84
Medium	711.0	578.0	606.0	105
Short	49.0	55.0	56.0	102
Cotton, Upland				
California	560.0	430.0	310.0	72
U.S.	13,409.0	13,925.0	14,300.0	103
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	215.0	230.0	290.0	126
U.S.	249.6	270.4	334.0	124
Beans, Dry Edible ^{3/}				
California	60.0	66.0	65.0	98
U.S.	1,354.3	1,665.0	1,710.3	103
Sugar Beets				
California ^{4/}	49.1	44.4	44.4	100
U.S. ^{5/}	1,345.6	1,294.8	1,371.8	106
Hay, All ^{6/}				
California	1,600.0	1,550.0	1,650.0	106
U.S.	61,966.0	61,649.0	61,478.0	100
Sweet Potatoes				
California	11.5	11.7	11.5	98
U.S.	96.9	90.4	94.2	104

^{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 2006

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

U.S. FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECREASED ONE POINT

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 113 based on 1990-92=100, decreased one point (0.9 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up three points (2.6 percent), but the Livestock Index decreased three points (2.6 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes, and strawberries. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of asparagus, strawberries, milk, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, Upland cotton, and corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down six points (5.0 percent) from March 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased one point (0.9 percent) from last month and seven points (5.7 percent) from March 2005.

The March All Crops Index is 117, up 2.6 percent from February and 0.9 percent above March 2005. From February, index increases for commercial vegetables, potatoes & dry beans, and cotton more than offset the index decreases for fruits & nuts and oil-bearing crops.

The March Food Grains Index, at 122, is 0.8 percent above the previous month and 9.9 percent above a year ago. The March all wheat price, at \$123.67 per ton, is up \$1.67 from February and up \$9.67 from March 2005.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 96, unchanged from last month, but 1.1 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$71.79 per ton, is down 35 cents from last month and 35 cents below March 2005. The all hay price, at \$97.10 per ton, is up \$2.10 from February and \$4.50 higher than last March. Grain sorghum, at \$3.29 per cwt., is 11 cents below February, but 25 cents above March last year.

The March Cotton Index, at 82, is up 1.2 percent from February and 22 percent above last year. The March price, at 49.6 cents per pound, is up 0.6 of a cent from the previous month and 9.3 cents above last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 138, is up 12 percent from last month and 21 percent above March 2005. The all potato price, at \$8.31 per cwt., is up 87 cents from February and up \$1.87 from last March. The all dry bean price, at \$19.50 per cwt., is up \$2.10 from the previous month, but \$7.10 below March 2005.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006
		Dollars					
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	72.14	72.14	71.79
Wheat 2/	Tons	3/	125.00	123.00	114.00	122.00	123.67
Oats 2/	Tons	---	4/	4/	108.13	113.75	110.63
Barley 2/	Tons	3/	3/	4/	103.75	107.08	106.25
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.04	3.40	3.29
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.97	7.97	8.05
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	37.20	42.80	3/	26.60	17.40	19.50
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	15.50	15.70	18.60	6.44	7.44	8.31
Winter	Cwt.	20.70	18.00	20.90	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.90	7.70	8.10	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Tons	128.00	130.00	130.00	92.60	95.00	97.10
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Tons	133.00	136.00	135.00	98.60	99.20	100.00
Other Hay, Baled	Tons	92.00	97.00	99.00	77.80	83.20	86.60
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs.	3/	0.589	3/	0.403	0.490	0.496
Cottonseed	Tons	---	---	---	---	98.20	---

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/ 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		
	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	754	724 1/	706	119	114 1/	113
All Crops	570	564 1/	564	116	114 1/	117
Food Grains	352	384 1/	388	111	121 1/	122
Feed Grains and Hay	339	342 1/	342	95	96 1/	96
Cotton	341	414 1/	419	67	81 1/	82
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	578	622 1/	698	114	123 1/	138
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,845	1,931 1/	1,923	139	145 1/	144
Parity Ratio 3/	41	37	37	86	79 1/	78

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, 2006, **California** wheat stocks in all positions were 18 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks of sorghum grain totaled 4.34 thousand tons on March 1, 2006. Off farm corn stocks were 15 percent below March 2005. Barley off-farm stocks were 2 percent above March 2005. Oats totaled 2.00 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. **U.S.** wheat stocks in all positions were 1 percent below a year earlier as of March 1. Corn stocks were up 3 percent, while barley stocks were down 13 percent. U.S. oat stocks in all positions totaled 1.20 million tons, while sorghum grain stocks totaled 5.40 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 2005	Dec. 1, 2005 1/	Mar. 1, 2006
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	12,000	21,000	15,000
Off-Farm 2/	305,640	468,090	358,740
Total	317,640	489,090	373,740
U.S. Total	29,531,730	42,882,720	29,167,200
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	20,472	30,312	20,808
U.S. Total	4,576,344	4,991,640	3,997,536
OATS			
California			
Off Farm 2/ 3/	4,288	3,920	2,000
U.S. Total	1,319,136	1,531,472	1,195,392
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	218,904	224,672	186,536
U.S. Total	189,177,352	274,818,796	195,640,984
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/ 4/	---	5,376	4,340
U.S. Total	5,698,616	8,130,528	5,399,492

- 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, 2006 totaled 1.20 million cwt. This was 44 percent below the 2.13 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 84 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks totaled 4.57 million cwt. in all positions on March 1, 16 percent below the comparable figure a year ago.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 21.2 million cwt. on March 1, 2006. This was 33 percent below the 31.4 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. **Nationally**, rough rice totaled 111 million cwt. in all positions on March 1, down 6 percent from the total on March 1, 2005.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1, 2005	Mar. 1, 2006	Mar. 1, 2005	Mar. 1, 2006
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	31,434	21,195	118,783	111,281
Long Grain 1/	---	426	79,994	86,108
Medium Grain	29,102	18,896	36,761	23,299
Short Grain 1/	---	1,873	2,028	1,874
MILLED RICE TOTAL	2,131	1,196	5,419	4,572
Whole Kernels Total	1,795	1,009	4,790	3,741
Long Grain	6	9	2,796	2,552
Medium Grain	1,724	952	1,925	1,136
Short Grain	65	48	69	53
Broken Kernels Total	336	187	629	831
Second Heads 2/	311	136	512	370
Screenings	---	---	28	162
Brewers	25	51	89	299

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

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	33,380	44,111	30,395
March 1	22,014	31,434	21,195
August 1	9,422	10,480	---
October 1 a/	4,800	5,055	---

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

APRIL 1 POTATO STOCKS DOWN 11 PERCENT

California fall potato stocks were estimated at 700 thousand cwt. as of April 1, 2006, 22 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 22 percent of the 2005 fall production, compared to 25 percent of the previous year.

The 13 major potato States held 114 million cwt. of potatoes in storage April 1, 2006, down 11 percent from last year and 9 percent below April 1, 2004 for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, 1 percent below last year. Disappearance of 259 million cwt. from the start of harvest to April 1 is down 5 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt., is down 20 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 133 million cwt. of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon's total processing dropped 3 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounted for 27.2 million cwt. of the total processing, 9 percent below last year and 10 percent below 2004.

Western States held 85.7 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 7 percent below last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 18 percent. Colorado's potato sheds held 13 percent less than last year, Montana's stocks dropped 11 percent, and stocks in California decreased 22 percent from 2005. Washington's potato stocks are 11 percent above last year and Oregon's stocks increased 37 percent from last season.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS BY STATE 1/

State	Crop of 2004			Crop of 2005		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.	Apr. 1, 2005 2/	Percent	1,000 Cwt.	Apr. 1, 2006	Percent
California	3,648	900	25	3,240	700	22
Colorado	23,791	9,000	38	22,292	7,800	35
Idaho	131,970	52,000	39	116,975	42,500	36
Maine	19,065	7,500	39	15,736	6,800	43
Michigan	13,650	2,200	16	13,920	2,200	16
Minnesota	18,920	6,500	34	17,630	4,500	26
Montana	3,551	1,900	54	3,434	1,700	50
Nebraska	9,288	---	---	8,245	2,200	27
New York	5,184	300	6	5,226	500	10
North Dakota	26,765	10,300	38	20,500	4,800	23
Ohio 3/	1,080	---	---	---	---	---
Oregon	19,775	6,200	31	22,023	8,500	39
Pennsylvania 3/	2,640	500	19	---	---	---
Washington	93,810	22,000	23	95,480	24,500	26
Wisconsin	30,450	7,200	24	27,880	7,200	26
Other States	---	2,400	---	---	---	---
13-STATE TOTAL	403,587	128,900	32	372,581	113,900	31

- 1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt.
- 2/ Missing stocks combined into "Other States."
- 3/ Stock estimates discontinued for the 2005 crop.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

California's 2006 winter potato production forecast is 3.24 million cwt., 7 percent below a year ago. The area for harvest at 12.0 thousand acres, is 14 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 270 cwt. per acre. Harvest continues with good quality. Little damage was caused by freezing temperatures in March. Spring production, at 5.76 million cwt., is 6 percent below last year. Area for harvest is down 5 percent and the yield is down 1 percent from a year ago. Planting proceeded normally, but weather conditions have been wet and cool. Overall condition of the crop is lower than the previous year and a few potato fields were damaged by frost. Harvest is under way in Kern County, but some growers anticipate a late harvest due to the wet conditions. California's summer potato planted and harvested acreage for the 2005 crop year is estimated at 6.20 thousand acres.

Nationally, the 2006 winter potato production is forecast at 4.62 million cwt., 4 percent above the January forecast, but 6 percent below last year. Area for harvest, at 17.5 thousand acres, is down 12 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 264 cwt. per acre is 17 cwt. above a year ago. Spring production in 2006 is forecast at 20.0 million cwt., up 7 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 68.0 thousand acres, 2 percent above 2005. The average yield is forecast at 294 cwt. per acre, up 13 cwt. from a year ago. The final production estimate for the 2005 U.S. summer potato crop is 17.6 million cwt. This was up 8 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Crop Production 2005 Summary, but down 4 percent from the 2004 crop. Harvested area covered 51.4 thousand acres, up 6 percent from the January estimate, but down 5 percent from 2004. The average yield of 342 cwt. per acre is up 8 cwt. from the January preliminary estimate.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
WINTER								
California	14.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	250	270	3,500	3,240
Florida	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.5	240	250	1,392	1,375
U.S. Total	20.0	17.7	19.8	17.5	247	264	4,892	4,615
SPRING								
Arizona	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.0	275	275	1,183	1,100
California	15.1	14.4	15.1	14.4	405	400	6,116	5,760
Florida	23.6	24.1	23.2	23.7	281	294	6,527	6,962
Hastings	17.3	18.0	17.0	17.7	280	295	4,760	5,222
Other	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.0	285	290	1,767	1,740
No. Carolina	15.5	16.5	15.0	15.7	190	200	2,850	3,140
Texas	9.5	10.7	9.1	10.2	225	300	2,048	3,060
U.S. Total	68.0	69.7	66.7	68.0	281	294	18,724	20,022
SUMMER 1/								
California	6.2	---	6.2	---	355	---	2,201	---
Colorado	5.0	---	4.9	---	375	---	1,838	---
Texas	9.4	---	8.7	---	465	---	4,046	---
U.S. Total	53.4	---	51.4	---	342	---	17,567	---

1/ Revised data for 2005.