



California Field Crop Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · (916) 498-5186 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

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MARCH 1, 2011 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

California's March intentions estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2.5 thousand 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 160.0 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2011. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 225.0 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2011, 24 percent above the 182.0 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2011 are expected to total 12.6 million acres, up 15 percent from last year.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 640 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2011, an increase of 5 percent from last year. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 92.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2011, up 5 percent from last year and 7 percent higher than in 2009. If realized, this will be the second highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 210 thousand acres of oats, 5 percent less than in 2010. **U.S.** growers intend to plant an estimated 2.84 million acres, down 10 percent from last year's planted area of 3.14 million acres. If realized, this will be the lowest planted acreage on record.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 760 thousand acres, 15 percent above the previous year. Another 155 thousand acres has been seeded to Durum wheat, 35 percent above the amount planted in 2010. At the **U.S.** level, 2011's all wheat planted area is expected to total 58.0 million acres, up 8 percent from last year. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 41.2 million acres, 10 percent above last year, and up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 2.37 million acres, down 8 percent from the previous year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 575 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 3 percent above the 558 thousand acres seeded in 2010. The expressed intentions were to seed 530 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 5.0 thousand to long grain and 40.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 3.02 million acres, down 17 percent from 2010. Acreage in all rice-producing States except California is expected to decrease from the previous year.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 150 thousand acres to barley, 36 percent above the previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 2.95 million acres for 2011, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the second lowest seeded acreage on record.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers had planted or intended to plant 25.0 thousand acres of sugar beets, as of March 1, down slightly from last year. If realized this will establish a new record low for the seventh consecutive year for California. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2011 crop year is expected to total 1.19 million acres, up 1 percent from the 2010 planted acreage.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 50.0 thousand acres in **California**, 21 percent below last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.30 million acres of dry edible beans in 2011, down 32 percent from last year. The decrease in planted acres can be mainly attributed to increased acreage intentions for competing crops, including corn and wheat.

ALL HAY: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.4 million acres as of March 1, down 5 percent from the 1.47 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 59.0 million acres of hay in 2011, down 1 percent from 2010.

SWEET POTATOES: **California** growers intend to plant 19.5 thousand acres in 2011, up 8 percent from 2010. **U.S.** growers intend to plant 126.7 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, up 6 percent from last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	2009	2010	Indicated 2011	<u>2011</u>
	1,000 Acres			2010
Wheat, Winter 1/				
California	615	660	760	115
U.S.	43,346	37,335	41,229	110
Wheat, Durum 2/				
California 3/	180	115	155	135
U.S.	2,554	2,570	2,365	92
Oats 1/ 2/				
California	250	220	210	95
U.S.	3,404	3,138	2,839	90
Barley 1/ 2/				
California	90	110	150	136
U.S.	3,567	2,872	2,952	103
Corn, All 2/				
California	550	610	640	105
U.S.	86,382	88,192	92,178	105
Rice 2/				
California:				
All	561	558	575	103
Long	5	6	5	83
Medium	505	510	530	104
Short 4/	51	42	40	95
U.S.:				
All	3,135	3,636	3,018	83
Long	2,290	2,841	2,165	76
Medium	793	752	812	108
Short	52	43	41	95
Cotton, Upland 2/				
California	71.0	124.0	160.0	129
U.S.	9,008.1	10,769.0	12,313.0	114
Cotton, Amer.-Pima 2/				
California	119.0	182.0	225.0	124
U.S.	141.4	204.2	252.5	124
Beans, Dry Edible 2/ 5/				
California	71.0	63.5	50.0	79
U.S.	1,540.0	1,911.4	1,303.5	68
Sugar Beets 6/				
California 7/	25.3	25.1	25.0	100
U.S. 8/	1,185.8	1,171.4	1,187.1	101
Hay, All 2/ 9/				
California	1,540	1,470	1,400	95
U.S.	59,775	59,862	58,973	99
Sweet Potatoes 2/				
California	17.4	18.0	19.5	108
U.S.	109.9	119.8	126.7	106

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Intended plantings in 2011 as indicated by reports from farmers.

3/ Includes area planted in preceding fall in California.

4/ Includes sweet rice.

5/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

6/ Intended plantings in 2011 as indicated by reports from processors.

7/ 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.

8/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all states, except California.

9/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES – MARCH 2011

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for dry, edible beans, all potatoes, fall potatoes, all hay, alfalfa hay, and other hay. None of the prices were below the previous month. A mid-month price for wheat was not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There was insufficient data to publish a price for oats, spring potatoes, and upland cotton lint.

The March All Crops Index is 200, up 0.5 percent from February and 29 percent above March 2010. Index increases for commercial vegetables, food grains, fruits & nuts, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decreases for feed grains & hay, oilseeds, and cotton.

The March Food Grains Index, at 239, is 3.5 percent above the previous month and 40 percent above a year ago. The March all wheat price, at \$254.33 per ton, is up \$6.66 from February and \$97.66 above March 2010.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 174 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 4 points (2.4 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 1 point (0.5 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 7 points (4.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for cattle, broilers, milk, and lettuce and lower prices for corn, soybeans, eggs, and cotton. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, tomatoes, and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and wheat.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 227, down 2.2 percent from last month but 48 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$195.00 per ton, is down \$6.43 from last month but \$68.21 above March 2010. The all hay price, at \$124.00 per ton, is up \$8.00 from February and \$17.00 higher than last March. Sorghum grain, at \$10.10 per cwt, is 80 cents below February but \$4.42 above March last year.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 33 points (23 percent) from March 2010. The Food Commodities Index, at 172, increased 7 points (4.2 percent) from last month and 30 points (21 percent) from March 2010.

The March Upland Cotton Index, at 135, is down 12 percent from February but 26 percent above last year. The March price, at 81.7 cents per pound, is down 11.0 cents from the previous month but 16.7 cents above last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 169, is up 7.0 percent from last month and 29 percent above March 2010. The all potato price, at \$9.95 per cwt, is up 69 cents from February and \$2.53 higher than last March. The all dry bean price, at \$30.30 per cwt, is up \$1.70 from the previous month and 60 cents above March 2010.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS a/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2010	February 2011	Mar 15, 2011	March 2010	February 2011	Mar 15, 2011
Dollars							
Corn b/	Tons	---	---	---	126.79	201.43	195.00
Wheat b/	Tons	c/	215.67	c/	156.67	247.67	254.33
Oats b/	Tons	---	---	---	143.13	204.38	195.00
Barley b/	Tons	d/	d/	d/	175.83	165.42	190.83
Sorghum Grain b/	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.68	10.90	10.10
Rice b/	Cwt.	---	---	---	14.30	13.20	13.90
Dry Edible Beans b/	Cwt.	c/	47.90	51.20	29.70	28.60	30.30
All Potatoes e/	Cwt.	8.35	9.70	10.50	7.42	9.26	9.95
Winter f/	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	d/	d/	d/	---	---	---
Summer f/	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.35	9.70	10.50	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled b/	Tons	114.00	159.00	192.00	107.00	116.00	124.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled b/	Tons	118.00	170.00	209.00	113.00	127.00	136.00
Other Hay, Baled b/	Tons	98.00	109.00	114.00	95.30	93.90	97.30
Upland Cotton Lint b/	Lbs	0.739	c/	d/	0.650	0.927	0.817
Cottonseed	Tons	---	c/	---	---	172.00	---

a/ 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.

b/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

c/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure of operations.

d/ Insufficient data to establish a price.

e/ Monthly average.

f/ Beginning in 2010, winter and summer potatoes included in spring potatoes.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Mar 2010	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Mar 2010	Feb 2011	Mar 2011
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	896	1,079	1,104	141	170	174
All Crops	769	988	990	155	199	200
Food Grains	543	733	757	171	231	239
Feed Grains and Hay	546	827	809	153	232	227
Cotton	550	785	692	107	153	135
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	665	799	858	131	158	169
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 1/	2,393	2,618	2,648	180	197	199
Parity Ratio 2/	37	41	42	78	86	87

1/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.

2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, 2011 **California** wheat stocks in all positions totaled 355 thousand tons, 12 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm corn stocks were 14 percent above March 2010. Barley off-farm stocks were 18 percent above March 2010. Oats totaled 3.07 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. **U.S.** wheat stocks in all positions were 5 percent above a year earlier as of March 1. Both barley and oat stocks were down 12 percent below March 2010. U.S. corn stocks in all positions totaled 182.6 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 4.78 million tons.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in **California** mills and warehouses on March 1, 2011 totaled 2.37 million cwt. This was 22 percent above the 1.94 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 70 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 6.28 million cwt., up 28 percent from a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 4.90 million cwt. of whole kernel rice and 1.37 million cwt. of second heads, screenings, and brewers rice.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 27.2 million cwt. on March 1, 2011. This was 5 percent below the 28.8 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. **Nationally**, rough rice in all positions on March 1 totaled 120.6 million cwt., up 16 percent from the total on March 1, 2010.

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

Grain and Position	March 1, 2010	Dec. 1, 2010	March 1, 2011
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	9,000	36,000	6,000
Off-Farm 1/	307,830	629,010	349,020
Total	316,830	665,010	355,020
U.S. Total	40,690,710	57,988,380	42,736,740
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	13,944	24,168	16,512
U.S. Total	3,776,520	4,329,120	3,311,328
OATS			
California			
Off Farm 1/ 2/	2,640	4,288	3,072
U.S. Total	1,567,856	1,616,176	1,381,520
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	198,520	326,116	226,800
U.S. Total	215,426,036	281,589,532	182,638,512
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	1,960	3,612	5,852
U.S. Total	4,915,484	6,654,704	4,783,016

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	March 1		March 1	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE				
Long Grain	350	a/	67,910	86,864
Medium Grain	a/	24,783	33,395	31,548
Short Grain	a/	a/	2,676	2,203
TOTAL ROUGH RICE	28,755	27,228	103,981	120,615
MILLED RICE				
Whole Kernels (Head Rice)				
Long Grain	a/	a/	2,370	3,038
Medium Grain	1,295	1,595	1,472	1,803
Short Grain	a/	a/	74	62
Total	1,371	1,658	3,916	4,903
Broken Kernels				
Second Heads	a/	358	707	634
Screenings b/	---	---	20	91
Brewers	a/	352	252	647
Total	572	710	979	1,372
TOTAL MILLED RICE	1,943	2,368	4,895	6,275

- 1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.
- 2/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks are included in United States totals.

- a/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
- b/ Screenings included with second heads in California.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	35,848	41,402	38,863
March 1	22,940	28,755	27,228
June 1	11,810	15,098	---
August 1	5,987	7,920	---
October 1	1,832	4,251	---

POTATO STOCKS

California fall potato stocks were estimated at 600 thousand cwt. as of April 1, 2011, 25 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 26 percent of the 2010 fall production, compared to 20 percent of the previous year.

Potato disappearance, at 246 million cwt, was 4 percent below April 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 20.4 million cwt, was down 16 percent from the same date in 2010.

The 13 major potato States held 106 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2011, down 18 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 30 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, four percentage points below April 1, 2010. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.20 million cwt on April 1, 2011, down 8 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 127 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 2 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 19.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS 1/

State	Crop of 2009			Crop of 2010		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of
	Apr. 1, 2010		Production	Apr. 1, 2011		Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	3,960	800	20	2,280	600	26
Colorado	22,080	8,100	37	21,528	7,200	33
Idaho	132,500	53,000	40	114,440	42,500	37
Maine	15,263	6,000	39	15,892	6,000	38
Michigan	15,660	1,700	11	15,660	2,300	15
Minnesota	20,700	6,800	33	17,010	5,500	32
Montana	3,298	2,100	64	3,673	2,200	60
Nebraska	8,756	2,200	25	7,719	2,100	27
New York	4,950	500	10	5,120	500	10
North Dakota	19,125	5,000	26	22,000	5,900	27
Oregon	21,460	8,000	37	20,058	7,700	38
Washington	87,230	27,100	31	81,740	17,800	22
Wisconsin	28,980	7,400	26	24,293	5,300	22
13-State Total	383,962	128,700	34	351,413	105,600	30
Klamath Basin 2/	---	1,300	---	---	1,200	---

- 1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2010 totaled 23.7 million cwt.
- 2/ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Included in the 13 State total.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

California's spring potato production 2011 forecast is at 10.8 million cwt., down 1 percent from last year. The summer potato planted and harvested acreage is included in the spring total.

production is 11.6 million cwt., up 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Crop Production 2010 Summary. Harvested area covered 37.5 thousand acres, up 1 percent from the 2010 preliminary estimate. The revised average yield of 310 cwt. per acre is down 1 cwt. from the 2010 preliminary estimate.

Nationally, the spring potato production for 2011 is forecast at 25.8 million cwt., up 4 percent from 2010. Area for harvest is forecast at 89.5 thousand acres, 4 percent more than 2010. The average yield of 289 cwt. per acre is unchanged from 2010. The final estimate of 2010 summer potato

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
SPRING								
Arizona	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	280	300	1,036	1,140
California a/	27.1	28.5	27.0	28.5	405	380	10,935	10,830
Florida	33.2	35.4	31.8	33.7	250	256	7,950	8,618
Hastings	21.5	22.4	20.3	21.2	250	265	5,075	5,618
Other	11.7	13.0	11.5	12.5	250	240	2,875	3,000
North Carolina	16.0	17.0	15.0	16.0	195	220	2,925	3,520
Texas	8.8	7.9	8.4	7.5	235	230	1,974	1,725
U.S. Total a/	88.8	92.6	85.9	89.5	289	289	24,820	25,833
SUMMER a/								
Colorado	4.0	----	3.8	----	370	----	1,406	----
Texas	6.0	----	5.5	----	390	----	2,145	----
U.S. Total	39.0	----	37.5	----	310	----	11,642	----

a/ Beginning in 2010, winter and summer estimates were included in spring total for California.

VIC TOLOMEO, Director
 SARAH HOFFMAN - KELLY KRUG, Deputy Directors
 Doug Flohr - Ben Blomendahl - Aaron Cosgrove
 Sarah DeVandry - Stephanie Holm - Robert Jeutong - Brian Kugel
 Jodi Letterman - John McDonnell - Karen Olmstead - Lena Schwedler
 Geoffrey Sechter - Jennifer Travis - Jennifer Van Court
 Estimates Group - (916) 498-5161

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