

California Farm News



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service,
California Field Office

Released: July 17, 2007
Media Contact: Joe Gaynor, 1-800-851-1127
CA Web Site: www.nass.usda.gov/ca

COTTON YIELD FORECASTS UNDERWAY SOON

SACRAMENTO, CA, July 17, 2007 - Fieldwork necessary for projection of California's 2007 Upland cotton yield is set to begin. After obtaining permission from selected operators, representatives of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin observations on approximately 100 randomly selected fields in late July. Counts of plants in selected fields, as well as immature and mature cotton bolls, will be made on a monthly basis in order to estimate yield at the state and national levels.

The current cotton crop progress estimate is based on the USDA-NASS weekly crop progress survey. "Cotton bloom is continuing and the setting of bolls is well underway," according to Vic Tolomeo, Director, USDA-NASS California Agricultural Statistics. "As of July 8, 55 percent of the cotton acreage in the State had set bolls, compared with 8 percent last year," says Tolomeo. "The 5-year average for boll setting is 18 percent. Upland cotton was planted on an estimated 185,000 acres this year, down from 285,000 in 2006."

The first forecast for the 2007 cotton crop will be issued by USDA-NASS on August 10. For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the National Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/ or call 1-800-727-9540.

###