

California Farm News



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service,
California Field Office

Released: September 12, 2006
Media Contact: Jack Rutz, 1-800-851-1127
CA Web Site: www.nass.usda.gov/ca

CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

SACRAMENTO -- The USDA-NASS, California Field Office today released the crop production forecast for September. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of August and the first week of September, included the following commodities:

Oranges, Navel - California's initial 2006-07 Navel orange production forecast is 66.0 million (37.5-pound) cartons, down 27 percent from last season's revised production of 91.0 million cartons. Of this total, 64.0 million cartons are estimated to come from the Central Valley. Bearing acreage for the State is estimated at 136 thousand, resulting in a yield of 486 cartons per acre. The forecast was based on the Navel Orange Objective Measurement Survey conducted in the Central Valley. Survey data indicated an average set of 294 oranges per tree, with a September 1 diameter of 2.27 inches. The Navel orange crop fruit set was adversely affected by the long and wet spring experienced in 2006. The fruit set is the lowest it has been in five years. The fruit are generally small in size, but are reported to be experiencing much needed growth during the late summer months.

Walnuts - The 2006 California walnut production is forecast at 350 thousand tons, down 1 percent from 2005's record production of 355 thousand tons. Bearing acreage is estimated at 215 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1.63 tons per acre. The forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement Survey conducted during August. The survey indicated a State-average nut set of 1,458, down 7 percent from 2005. The San Joaquin Valley set is 1,267, down 8 percent from last year; the coastal area set is 1,316, up 61 percent from 2005; the Sacramento Valley set is 1,660, down 10 percent from last year. The percentage of sound kernels in-shell was 98 percent statewide.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 750 thousand bales, down 30 percent from the 2005 crop and down 10 percent from the August 1 forecast. California's Upland cotton output is projected to be the lowest since 1946. Harvested acreage is estimated at 283 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1,272 pounds per acre. The forecast for American Pima cotton production is a record high 725 thousand bales, up 30 percent from the 2005 crop, but down 8 percent from the August 1 estimate. Harvested acreage is estimated at 274 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1,270 pounds per acre.

Rice - All rice production in California for 2006 is forecast at 40.5 million cwt., up 4 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 7,700 pounds per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast. Planted and harvested acreages are estimated at 529 thousand and 526 thousand acres, respectively. Rice fields were in various stages of heading during August. Harvest is expected to begin during September.

(Continued on back)

Corn - Corn for grain production in California for 2006 is forecast at 490 thousand tons, down 8 percent from last year's crop and unchanged from the August forecast. With acreage estimated at 100 thousand acres, the yield is 4.90 tons per acre. Compared to the 2005 crop year, harvested acreage is down 9 percent, whereas yield is up 2 percent.

Sugar Beets - The 2006 California sugar beet production forecast is 1,548 thousand tons, up slightly from the August forecast, but down 10 percent from last season. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month with 43.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 36.0 tons per acre.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these estimates considerably. The next production forecast will be issued October 12, 2006.

#

Find agricultural statistics for your county, state, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass/.