



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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

Corn - Corn for grain production is expected to total 1.08 million tons, up 8 percent from last year. Harvested acreage of 215 thousand is up 8 percent, and the yield forecast of 5.04 tons per acre is unchanged from the previous year.

Cotton - American Pima cotton production in California is forecast at 420 thousand bales, unchanged from last month's forecast, but down 47 percent from the 2007 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 151 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1,335 pounds per acre. Upland cotton is forecast at 380 thousand bales, unchanged from last month's forecast, but down 42 percent from last year. With harvested acreage of 117 thousand, the resulting yield is 1,559 pounds per acre. Harvest was underway for California cotton growers. Defoliation has taking place in most parts of the state. The warm, dry October weather conditions have been good for the cotton crop. Lygus infestations have delayed the Pima crop development.

Rice - All rice production in California is forecast at 41.9 million cwt. for 2008, down 4 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 8,100 pounds per acre, and the harvested acreage is estimated at 517 thousand. A lack of rain during March allowed rice growers to get an early start on their field preparations for the 2008 crop. Growers began planting rice during the middle of April, and were mostly finished planting by the end of May. Weather conditions were ideal during the early stages of growth. As of the middle of June, most of the rice fields in California had emerged and were showing steady growth. Rice fields were in various stages of heading during August. Weed pressure was a concern for many producers. Harvest began during September and was nearly complete as of the end of October.

Sugar Beets - California sugar beet production is forecast at 1.01 million tons, down 31 percent from the 2007 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 25.8 thousand, and the yield forecast is 39.1 tons per acre. Fall harvest ended in the Central Valley at the end of August, while planting began in the Imperial Valley for the 2008 crop in early September. Planting was nearly finished in the Imperial Valley.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late fall harvests may change these forecasts. The next production forecast will be issued December 11, 2008.

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