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California Farm News

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CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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

Cotton – Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 250 thousand bales, up 15 percent from the November 1 forecast. Harvested acreage of 70 thousand resulted in a yield of 1,714 pounds per acre. American Pima cotton production is forecast at 330 thousand bales, unchanged from last month. With harvested acreage at 127 thousand acres, the yield is forecast at 1,247 pounds per acre. As of December 1, cotton harvest continued, with some fields being picked twice in Tulare County, while other fields were being shredded as soon as the harvesters left.

Dry Edible Beans – Dry edible bean production is forecast to be 1.39 million cwt., up 45 percent from last year. Harvested acreage of 68 thousand is up 31 percent from last year, which resulted in an overall yield of 2,050 pounds per acre. For the first time in five years, California dry bean acreage increased. In addition to acreage increasing, growers experienced higher yields, leading to a high production year. The garbanzo harvest was completed in the summer, while harvesting of limas, blackeyes, kidneys, and other varieties neared completion by December 1.

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 January 12, 2010.

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