



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Ag Statistics Hotline: (800) 727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov



Contact: Krissy Young, (202) 690-8123
Lance Honig, (202) 720-2131

USDA to Measure Impact of Recent Freeze on California, Arizona Citrus Crops

Washington, Feb. 16, 2007 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey citrus growers and packing houses to measure the effects of last month’s freezing temperatures on the citrus crop in California and Arizona.

“NASS usually only publishes quarterly citrus forecasts for California, Arizona and Texas, and the next forecast would not come out until April,” said Carol House, chair of the Agricultural Statistics Board. “But because of the extended freeze that hit California and Arizona in mid-January, we are going to be surveying growers and packing houses a month early to update our forecast of utilized production.”

NASS will begin the survey around Feb. 20 and will publish updated forecasts in the March *Crop Production* report, scheduled for release at 8:30 a.m. EST on March 9. NASS will again publish updated forecasts in April, as originally scheduled. Forecasts for Florida citrus utilization are unaffected by the change and will be published in both March and April.

House also announced that NASS will move up the publication date for revisions to the 2005-06 season’s utilized citrus production data for the United States and all states. The data, normally published in April, will be released in the March *Crop Production* report.

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