

California Field Crop Review



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Upland cotton production in the U.S. is forecast at 17.9 million bales, down 3 percent from 1996. Yields are expected to be 650 pounds per acre, 51 pounds below last year, while harvested acreage is up 5 percent. American Pima cotton production is forecast at 546 thousand bales, up 3 percent from 1996. The yield per acre is expected to be 1,053 pounds, up 62 pounds from last year.

COTTON: Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 2.20 million bales, 8 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 1,207 pounds per acre, up 5 percent from 1996. American Pima cotton production is forecast at 440 thousand bales, 17 percent above last year's crop. Desert area harvest began in early September, while harvest of early planted fields in the southern San Joaquin Valley was underway by mid-month. Most later planted fields were progressing well by month's end. Light rains caused minor harvest delays, but lint quality was unaffected.

FIELD CROPS: Acreage, Yield and Production, California and United States, 1996-97

Crop	Area Harvested		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Unit	Production	
	1996	Forecast 1997		1996	Forecast 1997		1996	Forecast 1997
	-- 1,000 Acres --						-- Thousands --	
CALIFORNIA								
Wheat, Winter <u>a/</u>	550.0	400.0	Tons	2.07	2.25	Tons	1,138.5	900.0
Wheat, Durum <u>a/</u>	138.0	144.0	Tons	3.00	2.85	Tons	414.0	410.4
Oats <u>a/</u>	30.0	35.0	Tons	1.20	1.12	Tons	36.0	39.2
Barley <u>a/</u>	200.0	180.0	Tons	1.44	1.32	Tons	288.0	237.6
Corn for Grain	220.0	260.0	Tons	4.48	5.04	Tons	985.6	1,310.4
Rice, All	500.0	513.0	Cwt.	74.90	85.00	Cwt.	37,459.0	43,605.0
Long	5.0	6.0	Cwt.	72.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	360.0	<u>b/</u>
Medium	482.0	489.0	Cwt.	75.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	36,150.0	<u>b/</u>
Short	13.0	18.0	Cwt.	73.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	949.0	<u>b/</u>
Cotton, Upland <u>c/</u>	995.0	875.0	Lbs.	1,153.00	1,207.00	Bales	2,390.0	2,200.0
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c/</u>	164.0	184.0	Lbs.	1,098.00	1,148.00	Bales	375.0	440.0
Sugar Beets	82.0	102.0	Tons	29.50	30.00	Tons	2,419.0	3,060.0
Beans, Dry Edible <u>d/</u>	123.0	125.0	Cwt.	19.00	20.00	Cwt.	2,337.0	2,500.0
Hay, All	1,450.0	1,490.0	Tons	5.52	5.80	Tons	8,008.0	8,641.0
Alfalfa Hay	940.0	970.0	Tons	7.00	7.30	Tons	6,580.0	7,081.0
Other Hay	510.0	520.0	Tons	2.80	3.00	Tons	1,428.0	1,560.0
UNITED STATES								
Wheat, Winter <u>a/</u>	39,679.0	41,813.0	Tons	1.12	1.35	Tons	44,311.7	56,478.3
Wheat, Durum <u>a/</u>	3,556.0	3,107.0	Tons	0.98	0.83	Tons	3,482.7	2,585.8
Oats <u>a/</u>	2,685.0	2,911.0	Tons	0.92	0.97	Tons	2,484.4	2,817.7
Barley <u>a/</u>	6,767.0	6,425.0	Tons	1.40	1.40	Tons	9,498.0	8,987.5
Corn for Grain	73,147.0	74,049.0	Tons	3.56	3.52	Tons	260,216.2	260,727.7
Rice, All	2,799.0	3,037.0	Cwt.	61.21	59.07	Cwt.	171,321.0	179,383.0
Long <u>e/</u>	1,964.0	2,259.0	Cwt.	57.77	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	113,462.0	125,421.0
Medium <u>e/</u>	820.0	758.0	Cwt.	69.26	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	56,790.0	52,423.0
Short <u>e/</u>	15.0	20.0	Cwt.	71.27	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	1,069.0	1,539.0
Cotton, Upland <u>c/</u>	12,612.2	13,187.5	Lbs.	701.00	650.00	Bales	18,413.5	17,863.5
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c/</u>	255.9	249.0	Lbs.	991.00	1,053.00	Bales	528.5	546.0
Sugar Beets	1,323.3	1,433.0	Tons	20.20	20.70	Tons	26,680.0	29,638.0
Beans, Dry Edible <u>d/</u>	1,717.7	1,743.1	Cwt.	15.92	16.78	Cwt.	27,354.0	29,255.0
Hay, All	61,029.0	60,807.0	Tons	2.45	2.50	Tons	149,457.0	152,141.0
Alfalfa Hay	24,291.0	23,556.0	Tons	3.27	3.32	Tons	79,377.0	78,168.0
Other Hay	36,738.0	37,251.0	Tons	1.91	1.99	Tons	70,080.0	73,973.0

a/ Revised. b/ To be released January 1998. c/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480 pound net weight bales. d/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. e/ Rice class forecasts for 1997 are based on five-year average of class percentages.

RICE: California's 1997 rice crop forecast, at 43.6 million cwt., is 16 percent above 1996. The 513 thousand acres for harvest are 3 percent above last year. The yield is forecast at 8,500 pounds per acre, up 13 percent from last year. Harvest was in full swing during September and winding down in the Sacramento Valley by month's end. Ideal late season conditions helped push yields above earlier expectations.

The 1997 U.S. rice production is forecast at 179 million cwt., 5 percent above 1996. The larger 1997 crop is the result of a 9 percent increase in harvested acreage, which offset a 3 percent decline in expected yield.

HAY: Production of alfalfa hay in California is forecast at 7.08 million tons, 8 percent above last year's crop. Other hay production is forecast at 1.56 million tons, 9 percent above last year.

Nationally, alfalfa hay production is estimated at 78.2 million tons, down 2 percent from 1996. Other hay production, at 74.0 million tons, is 6 percent above last year.

SUGAR BEETS: California sugar beet production is forecast at 3.06 million tons, up 26 percent from the 1996 crop. Acreage for harvest, at 102 thousand, is up 24 percent, while yields are expected to be up 2 percent from last year. Harvest began in mid-July and remained in full swing in most areas.

U.S. sugar beet production is forecast at 29.6 million tons, an increase of 11 percent from 1996. Harvested acreage is up 8 percent, while expected yields are up 2 percent from last year.

CORN: California's 1997 corn for grain production is expected to total 1.31 million tons, 33 percent above last year. Acreage for harvest, at 260 thousand, is up 18 percent from last year. The yield forecast, at 5.04 tons per acre, is up 13 percent from last year. Grain harvest was in full swing in most areas by mid-September. Excellent growing conditions helped to increase yields considerably above earlier expectations.

The U.S. corn for grain forecast is 261 million tons, up fractionally from 1996. The average yield is forecast at 3.52 tons, 1 percent below last year.

DRY BEANS: California's 1997 all dry bean production is forecast at 2.50 million cwt., 7 percent above the 1996 crop. The 125 thousand acres for harvest are 2 percent above last year. The forecast yield of 2,000 pounds per acre is 5 percent above the 1996 yield. Harvest progressed rapidly during September and was winding down on most varieties by month's end.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 29.3 million cwt., up 7 percent from a year earlier. Harvested acreage is up 1 percent, while average yields are up 5 percent.

WINTER WHEAT: California's final 1997 winter wheat production, estimated at 900 thousand tons, was 21 percent below last year's output. Average yields came in at 2.25 tons per acre, 9 percent above 1996. Harvested acreage was estimated at 400 thousand, 27 percent below last year. The reduced acreage was primarily due to the January floods and the persistent wet conditions which kept many fields from being planted.

U.S. winter wheat production is estimated at 56.5 million tons, up 27 percent from 1996.

BARLEY: California's final 1997 barley production, estimated at 238 thousand tons, was 17 percent below last year. The average yield of 1.32 tons per acre was 8 percent below 1996. Acreage harvested for grain was estimated at 180 thousand, down 10 percent from last year.

U.S. barley production is estimated at 8.99 million tons, down 5 percent from last year's output.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

California wheat stocks in all positions on September 1, 1997 totaled 695 thousand tons, 22 percent above the 571 thousand tons on hand September 1, 1996. U.S. wheat stocks totaled 62.2 million tons, 20 percent above the 51.7 million tons on hand a year earlier. California barley stocks, at 73.2 thousand tons, were 10 percent below the 80.9 thousand tons on hand September 1, 1996. U.S. barley stocks, at 7.84 million tons, were 3 percent above the 7.58 million tons on hand a year earlier.

Off-farm stocks of oats in California totaled 3.33 thousand tons, 61 percent below the 8.62 thousand tons stored last year. U.S. total oat stocks, at 2.47 million tons, were up 16 percent from the 2.13 million tons stored last year. California off-farm stocks of corn on September 1 were 42.8 thousand tons, 93 percent above the 22.1 thousand tons of a year earlier. U.S. total stocks of corn were 24.8 million tons, up 108 percent from the 11.9 million tons on hand September 1, 1996. California off-farm sorghum stocks were 7.14 thousand tons, 128 percent above the 3.14 thousand tons of a year earlier. U.S. total grain sorghum stocks, at 1.32 million tons, were 156 percent above the 514 thousand tons on hand September 1, 1996.

**GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS
(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)**

Grain and Position	Sept. 1, 1996 <u>a/</u>	June 1, 1997 <u>a/</u>	Sept. 1, 1997
ALL WHEAT	---- Tons ----		
California			
On-Farm	120,000	4,500	54,000
Off-Farm <u>b/</u>	<u>450,900</u>	<u>138,600</u>	<u>640,800</u>
Total	570,900	143,100	694,800
U.S. Total	51,725,880	13,308,210	62,203,470
CORN <u>c/</u>			
California <u>d/</u>			
Off-Farm <u>b/</u>	22,148	107,688	42,756
U.S. Total	11,926,376	69,903,400	24,751,916
BARLEY			
California			
On-Farm	19,200	2,400	19,200
Off-Farm <u>b/</u>	<u>61,704</u>	<u>27,792</u>	<u>53,976</u>
Total	80,904	30,192	73,176
U.S. Total	7,578,672	2,638,800	7,835,400
OATS <u>c/</u>			
California <u>d/</u>			
Off-Farm <u>b/</u>	8,624	1,968	3,328
U.S. Total	2,126,912	1,066,816	2,472,816
SORGHUM GRAIN <u>c/</u>			
California			
Off-Farm <u>b/</u>	3,136	11,284	7,140
U.S. Total	514,388	3,336,032	1,317,092

a/ U.S. totals revised.

b/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

c/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks for corn, oats and sorghum are included in U.S. total.

d/ Old crop only.

PRICES RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA FARMERS - SEPTEMBER 1997

Prices received by California farmers at mid-September were below August for dry edible beans. Barley, potatoes, and all types of hay were above previous month levels. The mid-September price for Upland cotton lint and the August price for wheat were not published due to possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices for all types of hay were above a year earlier. Wheat, barley, dry edible beans, and potatoes were below September 1996 levels.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 108 based on 1990-92 = 100, unchanged from August. Price increases from August for tobacco, milk, eggs, and grapes offset price decreases for hogs, broilers, soybeans, and onions. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. However, these changes were essentially offsetting in September.

Compared with September 1996, the All Farm Products Index was eight points (6.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from September 1996 for corn, milk, wheat, and soybeans more than offset price increases for lettuce, calves, potatoes, and hay.

The September All Crops Index was 115, down 1.7 percent from August and 8 percent below September 1996. From August, price decreases for potatoes, dry beans, oilseeds, and vegetables more than offset price increases for fruit, nuts, tobacco, and food grains.

The September Food Grains Index, at 125, was up 2.5 percent from the previous month, but 15 percent below September 1996. The September all wheat price, at \$6.03 per cwt., was up \$0.10 from August, but \$1.25 below the September 1996 price.

The September Feed Grains & Hay Index was 112, down 2.6 percent from last month and 24 percent below September 1996. The corn price, at \$4.41 per cwt., was down \$0.05 from August and \$1.93 below the September 1996 price. The all hay price, at \$101.00 per ton, was unchanged from August.

The September Potatoes and Dry Beans Index, at 95, was down 14 percent from August, but 1.1 percent above September 1996. The September potato price, at \$5.67 per cwt., was down \$0.66 from August, but \$0.84 per cwt. above September 1996.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{a/}

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		September 1996	August 1997	Sept. 15, 1997	September 1996	August 1997	Sept. 15, 1997
----- Dollars -----							
Corn ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.34	4.46	4.41
Wheat ^{b/}	Cwt.	7.93	^{c/}	6.27	7.28	5.93	6.03
Oats ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.72	4.84	4.84
Barley ^{b/}	Cwt.	7.13	5.90	6.17	5.79	4.94	5.08
Sorghum Grain ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.58	4.09	4.03
Rice ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.95	9.94	9.98
Dry Edible Beans ^{b/}	Cwt.	37.20	37.80	31.10	24.30	22.40	16.50
All Potatoes ^{d/}	Cwt.	14.90	13.20	14.50	4.83	6.33	5.67
Winter	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	14.90	13.20	14.50	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled ^{b/}	Ton	104.00	113.00	117.00	92.10	101.00	101.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled ^{b/}	Ton	106.00	115.00	119.00	95.70	106.00	106.00
Other Hay, Baled ^{b/}	Ton	71.00	93.00	98.00	77.80	74.70	75.60
Upland Cotton Lint ^{b/}	Lbs.	0.776	0.675	^{c/}	0.717	0.671	0.719
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	^{c/}	129.00	112.00	113.00

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Sept. 1996	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1997	Sept. 1996	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1997
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	735	686 ^{e/}	684	116	108 ^{e/}	108
All Crops	617	578 ^{e/}	569	125	117 ^{e/}	115
Food Grains	466	388 ^{e/}	396	147	122 ^{e/}	125
Feed Grains and Hay	525	410 ^{e/}	402	147	115 ^{e/}	112
Cotton	606	567 ^{e/}	608	118	111 ^{e/}	119
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	475	557 ^{e/}	480	94	110 ^{e/}	95
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates ^{f/}	1517	1,522 ^{e/}	1520	116	116	116
Parity Ratio ^{g/}	48	45	45	100	93 ^{e/}	93

^{a/} The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. ^{b/} Previous month revised to monthly average. ^{c/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. ^{d/} Monthly average. ^{e/} Revised. ^{f/} All production indexes as of 15th of month. ^{g/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

CALIFORNIA CASH INCOME BY COMMODITIES AND COMMODITY GROUPS, 1994-96

Source of Income	1994	1995	1996	Source of Income	1994	1995	1996
	\$1,000				\$1,000		
FIELD CROPS				CHRISTMAS TREES	18,807	14,928	15,000
Alfalfa Seed	40,381	38,520	38,500				
Barley	29,242	38,457	46,908	VEGETABLE CROPS			
Beans, Dry	81,298	94,944	92,338	TOTAL	5,059,472	5,707,336	5,300,043
Corn for Grain	65,425	68,751	98,774				
Cotton Lint	1,119,392	1,238,460	1,072,632	LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & PRODUCTS			
Cottonseed	100,575	84,922	117,871	TOTAL	5,488,710	5,549,294	6,213,336
Hay, All	643,660	561,748	564,621				
Oats	3,111	2,316	3,139	TOTAL CASH INCOME FROM MARKETINGS	21,559,141	22,522,620	23,309,526
Oil Crops	63,052	56,202	60,568				
Potatoes	171,643	171,924	179,266	FARM RELATED INCOME	1,158,780	849,580	1,479,129
Rice	394,808	264,700	319,880				
Sugar Beets	132,258	125,765	95,309	GROSS CASH INCOME FROM FARMING <u>1/</u>	22,717,921	23,372,200	24,788,655
Sweet potatoes	45,682	56,784	51,579				
Wheat	156,334	146,296	248,145				
Other Seed Crops	95,623	83,312	83,763				
Other Field Crops	146,606	114,442	114,380				
TOTAL	3,289,090	3,147,543	3,187,673				
FRUIT & NUT CROPS TOTAL	5,716,612	5,962,591	6,369,767				
NURSERY & GREENHOUSE PRODUCTS	1,986,450	2,140,928	2,223,707				

1/ Includes value of home consumption, value of inventory adjustments, machine hire and custom work, forest products sold, rental value of farm dwelling, government payments, and other miscellaneous farm income.

SOURCE: USDA Economic Research Service