

California Field Crop Review



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California's Durum wheat production is forecast at 445 thousand tons, 9 percent above 1997. Acreage expected for harvest, at 156 thousand, is 8 percent above last year's acreage. The expected yield of 2.85 tons per acre remained the same as the previous year.

United States winter wheat production is forecast at 51.2 million tons, down 9 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of May 1, the U.S. yield is forecast at 1.26 tons per acre. This is down 7 percent from last year's record high average but, if realized, would still be the second highest U.S. average. Harvested acreage was estimated at 40.7 million acres, down 3 percent from 1997.

The U.S. estimate for Durum wheat production will not be available until July 10, 1998 for states other than Arizona and California.

WHEAT FORECAST

California farmers are expected to produce 777 thousand tons of winter wheat in 1998, down 14 percent from last year. The 370 thousand acres expected to be harvested for grain are 7 percent below last year. The yield is expected to average 2.10 tons per acre, down 7 percent from last year.

WHEAT FORECAST

Crop & Location	Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	-- 1,000 --		-- Tons --		-- 1,000 Tons --	
WINTER						
California	400	370	2.25	2.10	900	777
U.S.	41,813	40,715	1.35	1.26	56,478	51,174
DURUM						
California	144	156	2.85	2.85	410	445
Arizona	89	140	2.70	2.70	240	378
U.S.	3,107	a/	0.83	b/	2,586	b/

a/ Published June 30, 1998.

b/ Published July 10, 1998.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of hay on California farms as of May 1, 1998 totaled 431 thousand tons. This was 27 percent of the December 1 stocks and 169 percent above May 1, 1997.

United States May 1 hay stocks on farms totaled 21.7 million tons. This was 21 percent of the December 1 stocks and 25 percent above May 1, 1997.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	1995	1996	1997	1996	1997	1998
	----- 1,000 Tons -----					
California	2,250	2,594	1,624	361	160	431
Arizona	265	82	167	28	28	25
Nevada	750	752	711	166	60	151
Oregon	2,310	2,108	1,653	264	97	641
Utah	1,481	1,327	1,630	349	302	435
United States	109,438	104,832	102,517	20,739	17,372	21,650

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - APRIL 1998

Mid-April prices received by California farmers have increased since March for dry edible beans and winter potatoes. All potatoes, fall potatoes, and all types of hay were below the previous month's level. Mid-April prices for wheat, barley, and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure. Prices were above a year earlier for all potatoes, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, and hay other than alfalfa. Dry edible beans, all hay, and alfalfa hay were below April 1997's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX RISES THREE POINTS

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 105 based on 1990-92=100, up three points (2.9 percent) from March. Price increases since March for lettuce, cattle, broilers, and oranges more than offset price decreases for corn, milk, eggs, and soybeans. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, strawberries, milk, and oranges more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and wheat. These changes contributed one point of the three-point increase in the overall index.

Compared with April 1997, the All Farm Products Index was one point (0.9 percent) lower. Price decreases since April 1997 for hogs, soybeans, corn, and wheat more than offset price increases for lettuce, strawberries, milk, and tomatoes.

The April All Crops Index was 116, up 4.5 percent from March, but unchanged from April 1997. Since March, price increases for vegetables, fruits, potatoes, and dry beans more than offset price decreases for feed grains, hay, oilseeds, and food grains.

The April Food Grains Index, at 115, was down 2.5 percent from the previous month and 18 percent below April 1997. The April all wheat price, at \$5.38 per cwt., was down 15 cents from March and \$1.45 below the April 1997 price.

The April Feed Grains and Hay Index was 107, down 5.3 percent from last month and 14 percent below April 1997. The corn price, at \$4.21 per cwt., was down 33 cents from March and 79 cents below the April 1997 price. The all hay price, at \$101.00 per ton, was up \$3.50 from March, but \$11.00 below the April 1997 price.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{a/}

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 1997	March 1998	Apr. 15, 1998	April 1997	March 1998	Apr. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
Corn ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.00	4.54	4.21
Wheat ^{b/}	Cwt.	7.23	^{c/}	^{c/}	6.83	5.53	5.38
Oats ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.84	5.09	4.81
Barley ^{b/}	Cwt.	^{c/}	5.75	^{c/}	4.77	5.04	4.65
Sorghum Grain ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.34	4.02	3.79
Rice ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	10.30	9.55	9.38
Dry Edible Beans ^{b/}	Cwt.	39.40	28.10	29.80	23.00	20.10	21.10
All Potatoes ^{d/}	Cwt.	11.50	12.60	11.70	4.61	6.25	6.65
Winter	Cwt.	20.10	23.70	29.00	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	4.60	7.90	7.65	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	128.00	121.00	115.00	112.00	97.50	101.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	132.00	121.00	115.00	120.00	104.00	105.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	92.00	114.00	113.00	78.60	77.40	78.20
Upland Cotton Lint ^{b/}	Lb.	0.737	0.696	^{c/}	0.676	0.634	0.624
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	---	---	---	---

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	April 1997	March 1998	April 1998	April 1997	March 1998	April 1998
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	676	650 ^{e/}	665	106	102 ^{e/}	105
All Crops	571	550 ^{e/}	573	116	111 ^{e/}	116
Food Grains	446	374 ^{e/}	364	140	118 ^{e/}	115
Feed Grains and Hay	449	405 ^{e/}	384	125	113	107
Cotton	571	536 ^{e/}	527	112	105 ^{e/}	103
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	433	542 ^{e/}	575	86	107 ^{e/}	114
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates ^{f/}	1,541	1525 ^{e/}	1,528	117	116 ^{e/}	116
Parity Ratio ^{g/}	44	43	44	91 ^{e/}	88 ^{e/}	91

^{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 possible disclosure.

^{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.

1997 COTTON PRODUCTION

California farmers produced 2.19 million bales (480-lb. net weight) of Upland cotton in 1997, 8 percent less than the 2.39 million bales produced in 1996. Harvested acreage, at 875 thousand, was 12 percent below the 995 thousand harvested the previous year. The average yield was 1,202 pounds per acre, 49 pounds above 1996.

U.S. all cotton production in the United States totaled 18.8 million bales in 1997, 1 percent less than 1996's production. The 1997 output was the fifth largest crop on record. Upland cotton production, at 18.2 million bales, was 1 percent less than the previous year, while American-Pima production totaled 548 thousand bales, up 4 percent from 1996.

American-Pima production in California totaled 437 thousand bales, up 17 percent from the 375 thousand bales produced the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 184 thousand, was 12 percent above the 164 thousand harvested in 1996. The average yield was 1,141 pounds per acre, up 43 pounds from the previous year.

The area planted to all cotton totaled 13.8 million acres, down 6 percent from 1996. Harvested area, at 13.3 million acres, was up 3 percent from the previous year. These changes were the result of the 28 percent abandonment in the 1996 Texas crop. Yields for the U.S. averaged 680 pounds per harvested acre, the sixth highest yield on record.

COTTON AND COTTONSEED

Item	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		1996	1997	1996	1997
UPLAND COTTON					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	1,000.0	880.0	14,375.5	13,558.0
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	995.0	875.0	12,612.2	13,021.0
Yield	Lbs./Acre	1,153.0	1,202.0	701.0	673.0
Production ^{1/}	1,000 Bales	2,390.0	2,191.0	18,413.5	18,245.0
Price ^{2/ 3/}	Cents/Lb.	76.5	73.7	69.3	66.9
Value	1,000 Dollars	877,608.0	775,088.0	6,125,067.0	5,858,834.0
AMERICAN-PIMA					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	165.0	185.0	258.0	250.0
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	164.0	184.0	255.9	249.0
Yield	Lbs./Acre	1,098.0	1,141.0	991.0	1,056.0
Production ^{1/}	1,000 Bales	375.0	437.2	528.5	548.0
Price ^{2/ 3/}	Cents/Lb.	107.0	102.0	107.0	100.7
Value	1,000 Dollars	192,600.0	214,053.0	271,438.0	264,881.0
COTTONSEED ^{4/}					
Production	1,000 Tons	1,020.0	942.0	7,143.5	6,934.6
Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Tons	134.0	153.0	4,363.2	4,182.4
Other Farm Disposition ^{5/}	1,000 Tons	886.0	789.0	2,780.3	2,752.2
Used for Planting ^{6/}	1,000 Tons	9.1	8.4	137.8	132.0
Price	Dollars/Ton	176.0	174.0	126.0	121.0
Value	1,000 Dollars	179,520.0	163,908.0	900,081.0	839,086.6
Value of Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Dollars	23,584.0	26,622.0	549,763.2	506,070.4

^{1/} Revised 1997 data. Net weight bales are 480 lbs.

^{2/} Marketing year average price.

^{3/} The 1997 data is an average to January 1, 1998.

^{4/} Revised 1996 crop, preliminary 1997 crop.

^{5/} Includes planting seed, exports, inter-farm sales, shrinkage, losses, and other uses.

^{6/} Included in "other" farm disposition. Planting seed from previous year's crop.

SPRING POTATOES

California's spring potato production is forecast at 6.33 million cwt., down 24 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 18.9 thousand acres, down 9 percent from a year ago. Estimated average yield, at 335 cwt. per acre, is 16 percent lower than last year. Wet winter weather slowed planting and damaged early planted fields. Harvest is delayed 3 to 4 weeks from normal.

Nationally, spring potato production is forecast at 19.5 million cwt, down 11 percent from last year and 5 percent below a month ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 89,800 acres, up 4 percent from a year ago but less than 1 percent below two years ago. The average yield, projected at 217 cwt per acre, is down 35 cwt from last year and 17 cwt below the April 1 forecast.

SPRING POTATOES

State	Harvested Acres		Yield		Production		
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
			--- Cwt. ---		--- 1,000 Cwt. ---		
Alabama	1.5	1.7	175	165	304	263	281
Arizona	6.2	8.2	275	235	2,475	1,705	1,927
California	20.7	18.9	400	335	7,538	8,280	6,332
Florida	33.3	34.5	199	178	7,765	6,641	6,155
Hastings	24.5	24.5	210	190	6,325	5,145	4,655
Other	8.8	10.0	170	150	1,440	1,496	1,500
No. Carolina	16.5	17.0	200	185	3,230	3,300	3,145
Texas	8.0	9.5	195	170	1,105	1,560	1,615
United States	86.2	89.8	252	217	22,417	21,749	19,455

MAY 1 FALL POTATO STOCKS

California's potato stocks totaled 1.10 million cwt. on May 1, 1998, unchanged from a year ago. Stocks represented 26 percent of fall potato production, compared to 24 percent of the previous year.

The 15 major potato states held 87.1 million cwt. of potatoes on May 1, 1998, down 15 percent from a year earlier, but 14 percent above 1996. Storage accounted for 21 percent of 1997 fall production in the storage states, down 2 percentage points from last year. Disappearance of 320 million cwt. was down 6 percent from last year, including a 7 percent drop in processing.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 was 320 million cwt., 6 percent below a year ago, but 1 percent above two years ago. Disappearance during April was 42.2 million cwt., down 6 percent from last year, but 5 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss were estimated at 26.6 million cwt., down 14 percent from last year and 9 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1997 crop potatoes totaled 155 million cwt. so far this season, down 7 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. April processing claimed 17.7 million cwt. of potatoes, down 4 percent from last year, but 5 percent above two years ago.

Western states held 68.7 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, down 12 percent from last year, but up 13 percent from 1996. Idaho's stocks fell 11 percent from a year ago, but were 1 percent above two years ago. Idaho's storage held 53 percent of the western stocks. Colorado's storages were down 17 percent, Oregon's stocks were off 29 percent, and Washington's stocks were off 3 percent from last year. Montana's seed growers gained 17 percent from last year, but California stayed the same as the last two years. Each of the western states, except California, had more potatoes in storage than two years ago.

MAY 1 FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ^{a/}

State	Crop of 1996			Crop of 1997		
	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 1997	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 1998	Percent of Production
	----- 1,000 Cwt. -----		Percent	----- 1,000 Cwt. -----		Percent
California	4,600	1,100	24	4,200	1,100	26
Colorado	29,175	9,900	34	25,377	8,200	32
Idaho	142,800	41,000	29	135,430	36,500	27
Maine	21,175	5,300	25	19,170	4,500	23
Michigan	13,800	1,000	7	14,250	1,200	8
Minnesota	24,600	5,500	22	20,440	4,500	22
Montana	3,213	300	9	3,328	350	11
Nebraska	4,402	390	b/	7,527	603	b/
New York - Long Island	7,980	160	2	8,408	100	1
North Dakota	28,820	7,300	25	21,525	4,400	20
Ohio	1,275	b/	b/	1,175	b/	b/
Oregon	30,124	9,200	31	27,161	6,500	24
Pennsylvania	4,208	160	4	3,190	160	5
Washington	94,990	16,500	17	88,060	16,000	18
Wisconsin	31,590	5,000	16	27,923	3,000	11
15 STATE TOTAL	442,752	102,810	23	407,164	87,113	21

^{a/} Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1998 potatoes. Crop seed usage for 1997 totaled 28.9 million cwt.

^{b/} Combined Nebraska and Ohio to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.