

California Field Crop Review



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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Crop Production	1-2
Grain Stocks	2
September Prices Received	3
California Cash Income by Commodities	4

California's American Pima cotton production is forecast at 360 thousand bales, 18 percent below last year's crop. Growing conditions in the San Joaquin Valley were excellent for most of September after a late start this season. Light rainfall occurred during the final weekend of the month with no weather related problems.

COTTON: Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 1.25 million bales, 43 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 923 pounds per acre, 23 percent below 1997. Defoliation was underway in a few San Joaquin Valley fields during late September.

U.S. Upland cotton production is forecast at 12.8 million bales, down 30 percent from 1997. Yields are expected to be 609 pounds per acre, 64 pounds below last year. Harvested acreage was down 22 percent from the previous year. American Pima cotton production is forecast at 462 thousand bales, down 16 percent from 1997. Yield per acre is indicated to be 899 pounds, down 157 pounds from last year's record high yield.

FIELD CROP ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 1997-98

Crop	Area Harvested		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Unit	Production	
	1997	Forecast 1998		1997	Forecast 1998		1997	Forecast 1998
	-- 1,000 Acres --						-- Thousands --	
CALIFORNIA								
Wheat, Winter <u>a/</u>	400.0	380.0	Tons	2.25	1.80	Tons	900.0	684.0
Wheat, Durum <u>a/</u>	144.0	175.0	Tons	2.85	2.70	Tons	410.4	472.5
Oats <u>a/</u>	35.0	30.0	Tons	1.12	1.20	Tons	39.2	36.0
Barley <u>a/</u>	180.0	125.0	Tons	1.32	1.44	Tons	237.6	180.0
Corn for Grain	260.0	255.0	Tons	4.76	4.34	Tons	1,237.6	1,106.7
Rice, All	510.0	478.0	Cwt.	83.00	74.00	Cwt.	42,341.0	35,372.0
Long	9.0	9.0	Cwt.	77.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	693.0	<u>b/</u>
Medium	485.0	450.0	Cwt.	83.20	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	40,352.0	<u>b/</u>
Short	16.0	19.0	Cwt.	81.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	1,296.0	<u>b/</u>
Cotton, Upland <u>c/</u>	875.0	650.0	Lbs.	1,202.00	923.00	Bales	2,191.0	1,250.0
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c/</u>	184.0	184.0	Lbs.	1,141.00	939.00	Bales	437.2	360.0
Sugar Beets	99.0	101.0	Tons	30.00	29.00	Tons	2,970.0	2,929.0
Beans, Dry Edible <u>d/</u>	132.0	105.0	Cwt.	22.50	21.00	Cwt.	2,970.0	2,200.0
Hay, All	1,500.0	1,540.0	Tons	5.74	5.57	Tons	8,616.0	8,572.0
Alfalfa Hay	980.0	1,040.0	Tons	7.20	6.80	Tons	7,056.0	7,072.0
Other Hay	520.0	500.0	Tons	3.00	3.00	Tons	1,560.0	1,500.0
UNITED STATES								
Wheat, Winter <u>a/</u>	41,813.0	40,231.0	Tons	1.35	1.41	Tons	56,478.3	56,621.9
Wheat, Durum <u>a/</u>	3,107.0	3,728.0	Tons	0.83	1.13	Tons	2,585.8	4,232.1
Oats <u>a/</u>	2,911.0	2,807.0	Tons	0.97	0.97	Tons	2,817.7	2,718.8
Barley <u>a/</u>	6,425.0	5,984.0	Tons	1.40	1.44	Tons	8,987.5	8,596.8
Corn for Grain	73,720.0	73,789.0	Tons	3.56	3.70	Tons	262,236.1	272,815.2
Rice, All	3,034.0	3,187.0	Cwt.	58.96	56.96	Cwt.	178,896.0	181,546.0
Long <u>e/</u>	2,261.0	2,480.0	Cwt.	53.80	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	121,647.0	133,209.0
Medium <u>e/</u>	755.0	685.0	Cwt.	73.95	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	55,833.0	46,694.0
Short <u>e/</u>	18.0	22.0	Cwt.	78.67	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	1,416.0	1,643.0
Cotton, Upland <u>c/</u>	13,021.0	10,108.0	Lbs.	673.00	609.00	Bales	18,245.0	12,826.6
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c/</u>	249.0	246.5	Lbs.	1,056.00	899.00	Bales	548.0	461.5
Sugar Beets	1,428.3	1,457.2	Tons	20.90	21.60	Tons	29,886.0	31,499.0
Beans, Dry Edible <u>d/</u>	1,720.2	1,905.9	Cwt.	16.95	16.30	Cwt.	29,156.0	31,070.0
Hay, All	60,815.0	59,819.0	Tons	2.50	2.54	Tons	152,120.0	151,754.0
Alfalfa Hay	23,673.0	23,437.0	Tons	3.35	3.52	Tons	79,242.0	82,442.0
Other Hay	37,142.0	36,382.0	Tons	1.96	1.91	Tons	72,878.0	69,312.0

a/ Revised. b/ To be released January 1999. c/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480-pound net weight bales. d/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. e/ Rice class forecasts for 1998 are based on five-year average of class percentages.

RICE: California's 1998 rice crop forecast, at 35.4 million cwt., was 16 percent below 1997. The 478 thousand acres for harvest were 6 percent below the previous year. The yield is forecast at 7,400 pounds per acre, down 11 percent from last year.

The 1998 U.S. rice production is forecast at 182 million hundredweight, 1 percent above 1997. Area for harvest is expected to total 3.19 million acres, 5 percent above last year. The average yield was down 3 percent from the previous year.

HAY: Production of alfalfa hay in California is forecast at 7.07 million tons, slightly above last year's crop. Other hay production is forecast at 1.50 million tons, 4 percent below last year.

Nationally, alfalfa hay production is estimated at 82.4 million tons, up 4 percent from 1997. Other hay production, at 69.3 million tons, was 5 percent below a year earlier.

SUGAR BEETS: California sugar beet production is forecast at 2.93 million tons, down 1 percent from the 1997 crop. Acreage for harvest, at 101 thousand, is up 2 percent, while yields are expected to be down 3 percent from last year. Harvest continues after starting three to four weeks later than normal.

U.S. sugar beet production is forecast at 31.5 million tons, an increase of 5 percent from 1997. Harvested acreage is up 2 percent, and expected yields are up 3 percent from last year.

CORN: California's 1998 corn for grain production is expected to total 1.11 million tons, 11 percent below last year. Acreage for harvest, at 255 thousand, was down 2 percent from last year. The yield forecast, at 4.34 tons per acre, was 9 percent below a year earlier.

The U.S. corn for grain forecast is 273 million tons, up 4 percent from 1997. The average yield is forecast at 3.70 tons, 4 percent above last year.

DRY BEANS: California's 1998 all dry bean production is forecast at 2.20 million cwt., 26 percent below the 1997 crop. The 105 thousand acres for harvest were 20 percent below last year. The forecast yield of 2,100 pounds per acre is 7 percent below the 1997 yield. Harvest continues in California. Cooler weather has slowed drying.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 31.1 million hundredweight, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Harvested acreage is up 11 percent, but average yields were down 4 percent.

WINTER WHEAT: California's final 1998 winter wheat production, estimated at 684 thousand tons, was 24 percent below last year's output. Average yields came in at 1.80 tons per acre, 20 percent below 1997. Harvested acreage was estimated at 380 thousand, 5 percent below last year.

U.S. winter wheat production is estimated at 56.6 million tons, slightly above the 1997 crop.

BARLEY: California's final 1998 barley production, estimated at 180 thousand tons, was 24 percent below last year. The average yield of 1.44 tons per acre was 9 percent above 1997. Acreage harvested for grain was estimated at 125 thousand, down 31 percent from last year.

U.S. barley production is estimated at 8.60 million tons, down 4 percent from last year's output.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

California's stocks of wheat in all positions totaled 789 thousand tons on September 1, 1998, 14 percent above the 695 thousand tons on hand September 1, 1997. U.S. wheat stocks totaled 71.4 million tons, 15 percent above the 62.3 million tons on hand a year earlier. California's barley stocks totaled 81.6 thousand tons, 51 percent above the 54.0 thousand tons on hand September 1, 1997. U.S. barley stocks in all positions are estimated at 7.85 million tons, slightly below the stocks of September 1, 1997.

Off-farm stocks of oats in California totaled 2.38 thousand tons, 28 percent below the 3.33 thousand tons stored last year. U.S. total oat stocks, at 2.59 million tons, were up 3 percent from the 2.51 million tons stored last year. California off-farm stocks of corn on September 1 were 57.8 thousand tons, 35 percent above the 42.8 thousand tons of a year earlier. U.S. total stocks of corn were 36.6 million tons, up 48 percent from the 24.7 million tons on hand September 1, 1997. California off-farm sorghum stocks were 10.5 thousand tons, 47 percent above the 7.14 thousand tons of a year earlier. U.S. total grain sorghum stocks, at 1.37 million tons, were 3 percent above the 1.33 million tons on hand September 1, 1997.

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

Grain and Position	Sept. 1, 1997	June 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1998
ALL WHEAT	---- Tons ----		
California			
On-Farm	54,000	6,000	75,000
Off-Farm ^{1/}	<u>640,800</u>	<u>223,650</u>	<u>714,480</u>
Total	694,800	229,650	789,480
U.S. Total	62,290,440	21,674,340	71,435,310
CORN			
California ^{2/}			
Off-Farm ^{1/}	42,756	131,768	57,792
U.S. Total	24,728,508	85,113,196	36,618,484
BARLEY			
California ^{2/}			
Off-Farm ^{1/}	53,976	69,360	81,624
U.S. Total	7,868,328	2,885,592	7,851,648
OATS			
California ^{2/}			
Off-Farm ^{1/}	3,328	1,600	2,384
U.S. Total	2,510,752	1,184,016	2,589,200
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California ^{2/}			
Off-Farm ^{1/}	7,140	6,440	10,500
U.S. Total	1,328,908	2,692,032	1,369,284

^{1/} Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

^{2/} California on-farm stocks and total stocks for barley, corn, oats and sorghum are not published separately, but are included in U.S. totals.

**PRICES RECEIVED
BY CALIFORNIA FARMERS - SEPTEMBER 1998**

Prices received by California farmers at mid-September were below August for dry edible beans, all potatoes, summer potatoes, and alfalfa hay. Hay other than alfalfa was above the previous month. Prices for all hay remained the same as the previous month. The mid-September price for wheat, barley, and Upland cotton lint were not published due to possible disclosure of individual operations. All mid-September prices were below September 1997's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS THREE POINTS

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down three points (3 percent) from August. Price decreases from August for hogs, cattle, corn, and grapes more than offset price increases for milk, tobacco, tomatoes, and apples. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, broilers, wheat, and grapes more than offset the relatively higher marketings of soybeans, peanuts, corn, and cotton. These changes contributed one point of the three point decline in the overall index.

Compared with September 1997, the All Farm Products Index was nine points (8.4 percent) lower. Price decreases from September 1997 for hogs, corn, cattle, and wheat more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, grapes, and onions.

The September All Crops Index was 100, down 3.8 percent from August and 12 percent below September 1997. From August, price decreases for feed grains, hay, fruits, and oilseeds more than offset price increases for tobacco and vegetables.

The September Food Grains Index, at 86, was up 1.2 percent from the previous month, but 32 percent below September 1997. The September all wheat price, at \$3.95 per cwt., was down three cents from August and \$2.15 below September 1997. This is the lowest monthly all wheat price since August 1987.

The September Feed Grains & Hay Index was 83, down 8.8 percent from last month and 27 percent below September 1997. The corn price, at \$3.14 per cwt., was down 25 cents from August and \$1.36 below the September 1997 price. This is the lowest monthly corn price since December 1987.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{a/}

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		Sept. 1997	August 1998	Sept. 15, 1998	Sept. 1997	August 1998	Sept. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
Corn ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.50	3.39	3.14
Wheat ^{b/}	Cwt.	6.22	^{c/}	^{c/}	6.10	3.98	3.95
Oats ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.59	3.19	3.28
Barley ^{b/}	Cwt.	^{c/}	^{c/}	^{c/}	4.96	4.29	3.73
Sorghum Grain ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.99	3.32	3.02
Rice ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.85	8.95	9.40
Dry Edible Beans ^{b/}	Cwt.	37.20	31.20	31.00	16.30	19.80	18.80
All Potatoes ^{d/}	Cwt.	14.70	10.90	10.80	5.09	5.30	5.31
Winter	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	14.70	10.90	10.80	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled ^{b/}	Ton	122.00	97.00	97.00	100.00	88.50	86.50
Alfalfa Hay, Baled ^{b/}	Ton	124.00	99.00	98.00	106.00	90.50	89.10
Other Hay, Baled ^{b/}	Ton	101.00	79.00	80.00	74.80	79.00	74.00
Upland Cotton Lint ^{b/}	Lbs.	0.776	0.749	^{c/}	0.694	0.662	0.652
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	---	113.00	113.00	113.00

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Sept. 1997	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1998	Sept. 1997	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1998
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	678	643 ^{e/}	625	107	101	98
All Crops	561	513 ^{e/}	492	114	104 ^{e/}	100
Food Grains	400	270 ^{e/}	275	126	85 ^{e/}	86
Feed Grains and Hay	406	326 ^{e/}	298	114	91 ^{e/}	83
Cotton	587	560	551	115	109	108
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	447	470 ^{e/}	470	88	93 ^{e/}	93
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates ^{f/}	1,562	1,519 ^{e/}	1,507	117	114 ^{e/}	113
Parity Ratio ^{g/}	43	42	41	91	89 ^{e/}	87

^{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, 1995-97

Source of Income	1995	1996	1997
	<i>\$1,000</i>		
FIELD CROPS			
Alfalfa Seed	38,520	44,580	45,000
Barley	38,457	51,652	24,990
Beans, Dry	94,376	96,466	90,217
Corn for Grain	67,716	96,246	100,021
Cotton Lint	1,238,460	829,344	975,262
Cottonseed	84,922	117,871	122,181
Hay, All	528,185	597,537	679,096
Oats	2,721	3,925	3,908
Oil Crops	56,202	63,383	65,677
Potatoes	171,924	192,549	152,128
Rice	264,700	240,763	318,790
Sugar Beets	125,765	104,017	127,710
Sweet Potatoes	56,784	59,415	58,238
Wheat	146,296	238,578	176,998
Other Seed Crops	83,312	111,540	99,089
Other Field Crops	114,442	141,190	132,280
TOTAL	3,112,781	2,989,056	3,171,585

Source of Income	1995	1996	1997
	<i>\$1,000</i>		
VEGETABLE CROPS	5,730,327	5,448,094	5,974,094
FRUIT & NUT CROPS	5,983,149	6,554,449	7,490,704
NURSERY/GREENHOUSE PRODUCTS	2,158,508	2,281,327	2,346,432
CHRISTMAS TREES	14,928	12,491	12,000
LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & PRODUCTS	5,549,294	6,211,821	6,294,239
TOTAL CASH INCOME FROM MARKETINGS	22,548,987	23,497,238	25,289,054
FARM RELATED INCOME	1,041,815	1,765,815	1,504,258
GROSS CASH INCOME FROM FARMING ^{1/}	23,590,802	25,263,053	26,793,312

^{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