

California Field Crop Review



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MARCH 1, 1999 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

The **California** March intention estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,000 California farmers. The survey was conducted March 1-15, but referred to farmers' intentions on **March 1**. Therefore, the impact of weather or market conditions since that date is not reflected in this report.

COTTON: On March 1, **California** farmers were intending to plant 570 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 1999. If realized, this would be down 12 percent from the acreage seeded in 1998. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 250 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 1999. This would be 25 percent above the 200 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 1999 are expected to total 13.9 million acres, 4 percent above 1998 and up 46,200 acres from 1997.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 6 percent less corn for all purposes in 1999. This would be a total of 580 thousand acres of corn. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 78.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1999, down 2 percent from both last year and 1997.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 310 thousand acres of oats, 3 percent less than last year. **U.S.** producers planned to seed 4.73 million acres of oats in 1999, 3 percent below the 4.90 million acres seeded for 1998. Growers stated intentions to harvest 2.69 million acres for grain in 1999.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 500 thousand acres, the same as the previous year. Another 110 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 39 percent below the 180 thousand acres seeded for 1998. At the **U.S.** level, 1999's all wheat planted area is expected to total 63.0 million acres, down 4 percent from 1999. Winter wheat seeding is estimated at 43.4 million acres, down 7 percent. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 4.27 million acres, an increase of 12 percent from last year.

RICE: **California** farmers intend to seed rice on 550 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 15 percent more than the 480 thousand acres seeded in 1998. The expressed intentions were to seed 505 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 5.00 thousand to long grain, and 40.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Last year farmers seeded 435 thousand acres to medium grain, 9.00 thousand to long grain, and 36.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intend to seed 3.58 million acres this year, an increase of 7 percent from last year.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intend to plant 170 thousand acres to barley, equal to the previous year. **U.S.** growers intend to seed 5.27 million acres for 1999, down 17 percent from last year.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers intend to plant 102 thousand acres of sugar beets as of March 1. This is unchanged from the seeded acreage in 1998. The area planted to sugar beets for 1999 is expected to total 1.55 million acres in the 12 major producing states in the **U.S.**, 3 percent above last year.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 130 thousand acres in **California**. This would be 18 percent more than the 110 thousand acres seeded last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 2.05 million acres of dry beans in 1999, up 2 percent from last year and up 9 percent from two years ago.

ALL HAY: **California** producers intend to harvest hay from 1.50 million acres as of March 1. This is 4 percent below the 1.57 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers were expecting to harvest 60.1 million acres of hay in 1999, compared to 60.0 million acres in 1998.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	1997	1998	Ind. 1999	1999 1998
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat (Winter) 1/				
California	510.0	500.0	500.0	100
U.S.	47,985.0	46,449.0	43,399.0	93
Wheat, Durum				
California	145.0	180.0	110.0	61
U.S.	3,310.0	3,805.0	4,270.0	112
Oats 1/				
California	350.0	320.0	310.0	97
U.S.	5,068.0	4,902.0	4,732.0	97
Barley 1/				
California	230.0	170.0	170.0	100
U.S.	6,706.0	6,340.0	5,274.0	83
Corn, All				
California	585.0	620.0	580.0	94
U.S.	79,537.0	80,187.0	78,219.0	98
Rice				
Calif.: All	518.0	480.0	550.0	115
Long	9.0	9.0	5.0	56
Medium	493.0	435.0	505.0	116
Short	16.0	36.0	40.0	111
U.S.: All	3,125.0	3,345.0	3,580.0	107
Long	2,327.0	2,629.0	2,775.0	106
Medium	780.0	678.0	763.0	113
Short	18.0	38.0	42.0	111
Cotton, Upland				
California	880.0	650.0	570.0	88
U.S.	13,648.0	13,088.0	13,639.0	104
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	185.0	200.0	250.0	125
U.S.	250.0	329.9	305.2	93
Dry Edible Beans 2/				
California	135.0	110.0	130.0	118
U.S.	1,869.8	2,010.1	2,045.5	102
Sugar Beets 3/				
California	101.0	102.0	102.0	100
U.S.	1,459.3	1,497.9	1,547.7	103
Hay, All 4/				
California	1,510.0	1,570.0	1,500.0	96
U.S.	61,084.0	60,016.0	60,093.0	100

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

3/ Relates to year of intended harvest, except for over-wintered spring planted beets.

4/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - MARCH 1999

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for all potatoes, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, all hay, alfalfa hay, and hay other than alfalfa. Dry edible beans and Upland cotton lint were below the February 1999 price. Mid-March prices for wheat and barley were not published to avoid possible disclosure. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, winter potatoes, and fall potatoes. All potatoes, all types of hay, and Upland cotton lint were below March 1998's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES ONE POINT

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 97 based on 1990-92=100, up one point (1 percent) from February. This is the usual February-to-March increase due to the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers' sell. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, milk, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, oranges, and corn. Price decreases since February for milk, soybeans, broilers, and hogs more than offset price increases for cattle, lettuce, oranges, and eggs.

Compared with March 1998, the All Farm Products Index was five points (4.9 percent) lower. Price decreases since March 1998 for soybeans, corn, hogs, and wheat more than offset price increases for milk, lettuce, strawberries, and carrots.

The March All Crops Index was 100, up 1 percent from February, but 9.9 percent below March 1998. Since February, price increases for vegetables, potatoes, and dry beans more than offset price decreases for oilseeds, cotton, feed grains, and hay.

The March Food Grains Index, at 101, was unchanged from the previous month, but 14 percent below March 1998. The March all wheat price, at \$4.57 per cwt., was unchanged from February, but 98 cents below March 1998.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index was 91, unchanged from last month, but 19 percent below March 1998. The corn price, at \$3.64 per cwt., was down two cents from February and 91 cents below the March 1998 price. The all hay price, at \$78.50 per ton, was down 50 cents from last month and \$16.80 below March 1998.

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 1998	February 1999	March 1999	March 1998	February 1999	March 1999
Dollars							
Corn ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.55	3.66	3.64
Wheat ^{b/}	Cwt.	^{c/}	5.02	^{c/}	5.55	4.57	4.57
Oats ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.13	3.75	3.75
Barley ^{b/}	Cwt.	5.75	^{c/}	^{c/}	5.00	3.83	3.88
Sorghum Grain ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.02	3.16	3.13
Rice ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.67	8.97	8.93
Dry Edible Beans ^{b/}	Cwt.	28.10	39.80	39.40	20.20	18.40	17.70
All Potatoes ^{d/}	Cwt.	17.10	14.00	16.00	6.41	5.61	5.82
Winter	Cwt.	23.20	22.60	26.50	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.30	7.25	7.35	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	121.00	97.00	101.00	95.30	79.00	78.50
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	121.00	102.00	106.00	102.00	82.00	82.40
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	114.00	42.00	45.00	76.30	70.40	67.40
Upland Cotton Lint ^{b/}	Lb.	0.713	0.611	0.606	0.639	0.560	0.544
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	---	---	141.00	---

^{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.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	March 1998	February 1999	March 1999	March 1998	February 1999	March 1999
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	649	612 ^{a/}	613	102	96	97
All Crops	548	487 ^{a/}	491	111	99 ^{a/}	100
Food Grains	376	321	320	118	101	101
Feed Grains and Hay	405	326 ^{a/}	325	113	91 ^{a/}	91
Cotton	540	473 ^{a/}	460	105	92 ^{a/}	90
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	542	488 ^{a/}	500	107	96 ^{a/}	99
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates ^{b/}	1,546	1,534 ^{a/}	1,531	116	115	115
Parity Ratio ^{c/}	42	40	40	88	83	84

^{a/} Revised.

^{b/} All production indexes as of 15th of month.

^{c/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS

California fall potato stocks as of April 1, 1999 were estimated at 1.20 million cwt., 20 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 32 percent of the 1998 fall production, compared to 36 percent of the previous year.

The 15 major potato states held 131 million cwt. of potatoes on April 1, 1999, down 2 percent from last year and 11 percent below April 1997. Storage accounted for 31 percent of 1998 fall production, 1 percent less than a year ago. Disappearance, at 294 million cwt., is up 5 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high from the 1996 crop. Processor usage in the eight major states totaled 149 million cwt., up 8 percent from last year.

Western states held 97.6 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1999, down 3 percent from last year and 10 percent below April 1997. Idaho's stocks were down 4 percent and account for 55 percent of the western states' total. California's stocks were down 20 percent and Colorado dropped 13 percent. Washington's stocks were down 4 percent, but Oregon stored 7 percent more than a year ago. Montana's seed movement is late with remaining storage 154 percent above last year.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS BY STATE

State	Crop of 1997			Crop of 1998		
	Production	Total Stocks Apr. 1, 1998	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Apr. 1, 1999	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	4,200	1,500	36	3,708	1,200	32
Colorado	24,993	10,500	42	25,360	9,100	36
Idaho	140,314	56,000	40	139,650	53,500	38
Maine	19,080	7,400	39	18,060	6,000	33
Michigan	14,250	2,300	16	14,725	2,200	15
Minnesota	20,440	6,800	33	21,170	6,700	32
Montana	3,328	700	21	3,180	1,780	56
Nebraska 1/	7,761	1,210	---	8,175	1,140	---
New York	7,150	400	6	7,290	350	5
North Dakota	22,000	7,000	32	28,670	9,500	33
Ohio 1/	1,170	---	---	1,200	---	---
Oregon	27,319	9,800	36	26,229	10,500	40
Pennsylvania	3,173	480	15	3,360	420	13
Washington	88,160	22,500	26	93,225	21,500	23
Wisconsin	30,175	7,600	25	30,895	7,000	23
15-STATE TOTAL	413,513	134,190	32	424,897	130,890	31

1/ Combined Nebraska and Ohio to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

SPRING POTATOES

California production of spring potatoes is forecast at 7.31 million cwt., 18 percent above last year. Harvested acreage, at 19.5 thousand, is up 5 percent from 1998. The yield is forecast at 375 cwt. per acre, 40 cwt. above last year. Growers are anticipating favorable growing conditions for the 1999 spring potato crop.

U.S. spring production in 1999 is forecast at 22.0 million cwt., up 4 percent from last year, but 2 percent short of 1997. Area for harvest is estimated at 85,800 acres, down 5 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 256 cwt. per acre, a gain of 23 cwt. over last year and 1 cwt. above two years ago.

SPRING POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		
Alabama	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	130	175	272	221	280
Arizona	8.1	9.4	8.1	9.4	282	280	1,820	2,284	2,632
California	18.5	19.5	18.5	19.5	335	375	8,073	6,198	7,313
Florida	35.8	29.8	34.5	29.0	213	223	7,150	7,358	6,460
Hastings	25.5	22.5	24.5	22.0	235	230	5,258	5,758	5,060
Other	10.3	7.3	10.0	7.0	160	200	1,892	1,600	1,400
No. Carolina	18.0	17.0	17.5	16.5	190	195	3,287	3,325	3,218
Texas	10.8	10.3	10.3	9.8	170	210	1,697	1,751	2,058
U.S. TOTAL	93.0	87.7	90.6	85.8	233	256	22,299	21,137	21,961

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, **California** wheat stocks in all positions were 33 percent above a year earlier. Barley off-farm stocks were up 41 percent from 1998. Off-farm corn stocks increased 9 percent. Oats totaled 7.01 thousand tons and sorghum grain totaled 5.80 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. **U.S.** wheat stocks in all positions were 24 percent above a year earlier as of March 1. Corn stocks were up 15 percent and barley stocks were up 11 percent. U.S. oat stocks in all positions totaled 1.75 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 6.34 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 1998	Dec. 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	21,000	69,000	48,000
Off-Farm ^{1/}	307,860	594,150	387,810
Total	328,860	663,150	435,810
U.S. Total	34,996,920	56,874,540	43,344,420
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm ^{1/} ^{2/}	56,472	65,496	79,536
U.S. Total	4,324,776	6,492,552	4,810,224
OATS			
California			
Off Farm ^{1/} ^{2/}	1,616	3,984	7,008
U.S. Total	1,779,488	2,293,600	1,748,608
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm ^{1/} ^{2/}	239,400	376,348	260,820
U.S. Total	138,317,144	225,453,872	159,475,288
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm ^{1/} ^{2/}	12,096	7,084	5,796
U.S. Total	6,570,928	9,388,848	6,339,816

^{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 included in United States totals.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in **California** mills and warehouses on March 1, 1999 totaled 1.03 million cwt., down 4 percent from the 1.07 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 90 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks totaled 4.34 million cwt. in all positions on March 1, 26 percent below last year.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 15.6 million cwt. on March 1. This was 40 percent below the 25.8 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 13.9 million cwt., with the remainder in mill storage.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	25,785	15,596	88,051	80,663
Long Grain	a/	a/	53,329	58,049
Medium Grain	24,382	13,872	33,596	21,329
Short Grain	a/	a/	1,126	1,285
MILLED RICE TOTAL	1,073	1,028	5,879	4,344
Whole Kernels Total	790	926	4,986	3,537
Long Grain	36	16	3,871	2,361
Medium Grain	725	879	1,080	1,114
Short Grain	29	31	35	62
Broken Kernels Total	283	102	893	807
Second Heads b/	256	88	711	612
Screenings	---	---	27	92
Brewers	27	14	155	103

a/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

b/ California figure includes screenings.

CALIFORNIA OFF-FARM ROUGH RICE STOCKS BY MONTH, 1996-99

Month	Season		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
	1,000 Cwt.		
October 1 a/	4,647	4,515	4,747
December 1 b/	35,031	34,664	27,337
March 1	20,377	25,785	15,596
August 1	7,776	11,697	

a/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total. May include some carryover from previous season.

b/ Revised 1998-99 data.