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California's Durum wheat production is forecast at 299 thousand tons, down 37 percent from 1998. Acreage expected for harvest, at 105 thousand, is 40 percent below last year's. The expected yield of 2.85 tons per acre is 6 percent above the previous year.

United States winter wheat production is forecast at 48.4 million tons, down 14 percent from 1998. Based on conditions as of May 1, the U.S. yield is forecast at 1.33 tons per acre. This is down 6 percent from last year's record high. Harvested acreage was estimated at 36.3 million, down 9 percent from 1998.

The U.S. estimate for Durum wheat production will not be available until July 12, 1999 for states other than Arizona and California.

WHEAT FORECAST

California farmers are expected to produce 819 thousand tons of winter wheat in 1999, up 20 percent from last year. The 390 thousand acres expected to be harvested for grain are 3 percent above last year. The yield is expected to average 2.10 tons per acre, up 17 percent from last year.

WHEAT FORECAST

Crop and Location	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Acres		Tons		1,000 Tons	
WINTER California	380	390	1.80	2.10	684	819
UNITED STATES	40,126	36,343	1.41	1.33	56,418	48,444
DURUM California	175	105	2.70	2.85	473	299
Arizona	144	75	3.15	2.85	454	214
UNITED STATES	3,728	a/	1.14	b/	4,232	b/

a/ Published June 30, 1999.

b/ Published July 12, 1999.

1998 COTTON PRODUCTION

California farmers produced 1.15 million bales (480-lb. net weight) of Upland cotton in 1998, 48 percent less than the 2.19 million bales produced in 1997. Harvested acreage, at 620 thousand, was 29 percent below the 875 thousand harvested the previous year. The average yield was 887 pounds per acre, 315 pounds below 1997.

American-Pima production in California totaled 353 thousand bales, down 19 percent from the 437 thousand bales produced the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 180 thousand, was 2 percent below the 184 thousand harvested in 1997. The average yield was 941 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from the previous year.

U.S. all cotton production totaled 13.9 million bales, 26 percent less than 1997's production. The 1998 output was the smallest crop since 1989. Upland cotton production, at 13.5 million bales, was 26 percent less than the previous year, while American-Pima production totaled 442.3 thousand bales, down 19 percent from 1997.

The area planted to all cotton totaled 13.4 million acres, down 4 percent from 1997. Harvested area was 10.7 million acres, down 20 percent from the previous year. This large decrease was mainly due to the large abandonment in Texas. Abandonment totaled 20 percent in 1998, compared to only 4 percent the previous year. Yields for the U.S. averaged 625 pounds per harvested acre.

COTTON AND COTTONSEED

Item	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		1997	1998	1997	1998
UPLAND COTTON					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	880.0	650.0	13,648.0	13,064.3
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	875.0	620.0	13,157.0	10,448.8
Yield	Lbs./Acre	1,202.0	887.0	666.0	619.0
Production ^{1/}	1,000 Bales	2,191.0	1,146.0	18,245.0	13,475.9
Price ^{2/ 3/}	Cents/Lb.	73.2	74.4	65.2	64.2
Value	1,000 Dollars	769,830.0	409,260.0	5,708,940.0	4,152,733.0
AMERICAN-PIMA					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	185.0	200.0	250.0	328.2
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	184.0	180.0	249.0	234.8
Yield	Lbs./Acre	1,141.0	941.0	1,056.0	904.0
Production ^{1/}	1,000 Bales	437.2	352.8	548.0	442.3
Price ^{2/ 3/}	Cents/Lb.	102.0	100.0	101.4	98.5
Value	1,000 Dollars	214,053.0	169,344.0	266,645.0	209,119.0
COTTONSEED ^{4/}					
Production	1,000 Tons	942.0	544.0	6,934.6	5,497.4
Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Tons	153.0	84.0	4,182.4	3,318.1
Other Farm Disposition ^{5/}	1,000 Tons	789.0	460.0	2,752.2	2,179.3
Used for Planting ^{6/}	1,000 Tons	7.2	7.1	133.9	140.1
Price ^{2/ 3/}	Dollars/Ton	174.0	177.0	121.0	129.0
Value	1,000 Dollars	163,908.0	96,288.0	835,371.0	709,164.6
Value of Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Dollars	26,622.0	14,868.0	506,070.4	428,034.9

^{1/} Revised 1998 data. Net weight bales are 480 lbs.

^{2/} Marketing year average price.

^{3/} The 1998 data is an average to January 1, 1999.

^{4/} Revised 1997 crop, preliminary 1998 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.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - APRIL 1999

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

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES ONE POINT

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 98 based on 1990-92=100, up one point (1 percent) from March. The increase is due to the seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell. The normal increase in marketings of strawberries, cattle, oranges, and milk more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and hogs. Also, the change in marketings more than offset a decline in overall prices. Price decreases since March for milk, eggs, broilers, and corn more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, onions, and carrots.

Compared with April 1998, the All Farm Products Index was six points (5.8 percent) lower. Since April 1998, price decreases for corn, soybeans, milk, and hogs more than offset price increases for strawberries, carrots, lettuce, and grapefruit.

The April All Crops Index was 106, up 7.1 percent from March, but 7 percent below April 1998. From March, price increases for vegetables, potatoes, dry beans, and fruits and nuts more than offset price decreases for feed grains, hay, tobacco, and oilseeds.

The April Food Grains Index, at 98, was unchanged from the previous month, but 14 percent below April 1998. The April all wheat price, at \$4.52 per cwt., was up 10 cents from March, but 78 cents below April 1998.

The April Feed Grains and Hay Index was 89, down 3.3 percent from last month and 18 percent below April 1998. The corn price, at \$3.52 per cwt., was down 16 cents from March and 78 cents below the April 1998 price. The all hay price, at \$81.90 per ton, was up \$3.40 from last month, but \$16.10 below April 1998.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{a/}

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 1998	March 1999	Apr. 15, 1999	April 1998	March 1999	Apr. 15, 1999
Dollars							
Corn ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.30	3.68	3.52
Wheat ^{b/}	Cwt.	5.22	4.93	^{c/}	5.30	4.42	4.52
Oats ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.03	3.78	3.75
Barley ^{b/}	Cwt.	^{c/}	^{c/}	^{c/}	4.50	4.00	3.75
Sorghum Grain ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.77	3.17	3.01
Rice ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.40	8.86	8.33
Dry Edible Beans ^{b/}	Cwt.	28.60	39.40	38.90	20.80	17.20	18.80
All Potatoes ^{d/}	Cwt.	15.30	12.00	14.20	6.27	5.81	6.47
Winter	Cwt.	28.40	22.30	32.20	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.45	7.20	6.85	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	119.00	105.00	95.00	98.00	78.50	81.90
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	120.00	109.00	98.00	105.00	82.40	85.60
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	100.00	37.00	35.00	72.20	67.40	65.80
Upland Cotton Lint ^{b/}	Lb.	0.713	0.592	0.652	0.636	0.553	0.557

^{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		
	April 1998	March 1999	April 1999	April 1998	March 1999	April 1999
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	658	614 ^{a/}	621	104	97	98
All Crops	562	489 ^{a/}	524	114	99 ^{a/}	106
Food Grains	361	312 ^{a/}	311	114	98 ^{a/}	98
Feed Grains and Hay	388	327 ^{a/}	319	109	92 ^{a/}	89
Cotton	538	467 ^{a/}	471	105	91 ^{a/}	92
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	546	498 ^{a/}	553	108	98 ^{a/}	109
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates ^{b/}	1,565	1549 ^{a/}	1,549	118	116 ^{a/}	116
Parity Ratio ^{c/}	42	40	40	88	84 ^{a/}	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.

SPRING POTATOES

California's spring potato production forecast was 7.12 million cwt., up 15 percent from last year. Area for harvest was estimated at 19.5 thousand acres, up 5 percent from a year ago. The estimated average yield, at 365 cwt. per acre, was 9 percent above last year. California potato growth was slowed by cold weather and frost during April making harvest about 10 days late.

Nationally, the 1999 spring potato production forecast was 23.2 million cwt., up 10 percent from last year and 4 percent above 1997. The May production forecast was 6 percent above April 1, because of ideal growing seasons in Texas, Arizona, and Hastings, Florida. Area for harvest was estimated at 85.8 thousand acres, down 5 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below two years ago. The average yield forecast was 270 cwt. per acre, up 37 cwt. over last year and 15 cwt. above two years ago.

SPRING POTATOES

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		
Alabama	1.7	1.6	130	175	272	221	280
Arizona	8.1	9.4	282	290	1,820	2,284	2,726
California	18.5	19.5	335	365	8,073	6,198	7,118
Florida	34.5	29.0	213	261	7,150	7,358	7,560
Hastings	24.5	22.0	235	280	5,258	5,758	6,160
Other	10.0	7.0	160	200	1,892	1,600	1,400
North Carolina	17.5	16.5	190	195	3,287	3,325	3,218
Texas	10.3	9.8	170	235	1,697	1,751	2,303
UNITED STATES	90.6	85.8	233	270	22,299	21,137	23,205

MAY 1 FALL POTATO STOCKS

California's potato stocks totaled 900 million cwt. on May 1, 1999, down 25 percent from last year. Stocks represented 24 percent of fall potato production, compared to 29 percent of the previous year.

The 15 major potato states held 87.6 million cwt. of potatoes on May 1, 1999, down 6 percent from last year and 15 percent below May 1997. Storage accounted for 21 percent of 1998 fall production, 1 percent less than a year ago. Disappearance, at 337 million cwt., is up 5 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high 1996 crop. Processor usage in the eight major states totaled 168 million cwt., up 8 percent from last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 totaled 337 million cwt., up 5 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high two years ago. April disappearance totaled 43.3 million cwt., 5 percent above last year, but down 3 percent from April 1997. Shrink and loss to date is estimated at 30.1 million cwt., up 18 percent from last year.

Processing of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 168 million cwt., up 8 percent from the 1997 crop and equal to the 1996 crop. A record 19.2 million cwt. of raw potatoes were used for processing during April, up 9 percent from last year and 3 percent above two years ago.

Western states held 68.1 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, 1999, down 7 percent from last year and 15 percent below May 1997. Idaho's stocks were down 6 percent and account for 57 percent of the western states' total. California's stocks were down 25 percent, Colorado dropped 17 percent, Washington's stocks were down 9 percent, but Oregon stored 8 percent more than a year ago. Montana's seed movement is late with remaining storage 80 percent above last year at this time.

MAY 1 FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS *a/*

State	Crop of 1997			Crop of 1998		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of
	1,000 Cwt.	May 1, 1998	Production	1,000 Cwt.	May 1, 1999	Production
		Percent			Percent	
California	4,200	1,200	29	3,708	900	24
Colorado	24,993	7,700	31	25,360	6,400	25
Idaho	140,314	41,500	30	139,650	39,000	28
Maine	19,080	4,500	24	18,060	3,800	21
Michigan	14,250	1,000	7	14,725	800	5
Minnesota	20,440	4,500	22	21,170	4,300	20
Montana	3,328	150	5	3,180	270	8
Nebraska	7,761	300	b/	8,175	400	b/
New York	7,150	100	1	7,290	140	2
North Dakota	22,000	4,700	21	28,670	6,500	23
Ohio	1,170	b/	b/	1,200	b/	b/
Oregon	27,319	6,500	24	26,229	7,000	27
Pennsylvania	3,173	190	6	3,360	130	4
Washington	88,160	16,000	18	93,225	14,500	16
Wisconsin	30,175	4,500	15	30,895	3,500	11
15-STATE TOTAL	413,513	92,840	22	424,897	87,640	21

a/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1999 potatoes. Crop seed usage for 1998 totaled 30 million cwt.

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

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of hay on California farms as of May 1, 1999 totaled 406 thousand tons. This was 13 percent of the December 1 stocks and 3 percent below May 1, 1998.

United States May 1 hay stocks on farms totaled 24.8 million tons. This was 22 percent of the December 1 stocks, but 14 percent above May 1, 1998.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	1996	1997	1998	1997	1998	1999
1,000 Tons						
California	2,594	1,598	3,246	160	420	406
Arizona	82	171	177	28	34	28
Nevada	758	708	857	61	151	233
Oregon	2,108	1,600	2,159	97	621	135
Utah	1,327	1,658	1,695	302	435	485
UNITED STATES	105,179	103,044	111,839	17,424	21,827	24,795