

California Field Crop Review



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Compared with February 1999, the All Farm Products Index was four points (4.2 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1999 for milk, lettuce, oranges, and cotton more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, calves, and apples.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - FEBRUARY 2000

Mid-February prices received by California farmers increased from January for all hay, alfalfa hay, and cottonseed. Dry edible beans, all potatoes, and winter potatoes were below the previous month. Barley, fall potatoes, and hay other than alfalfa remained the same as January. Mid-February prices for wheat and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure. Prices were above a year earlier for hay other than alfalfa. Dry edible beans, all potatoes, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, all hay, alfalfa hay, and cottonseed were below February 1999's level.

The February All Crops Index was 89, up 2.3 percent from January, but 9.2 percent below February 1999. Price increases from January for feed grains, hay, oilseeds, food grains, fruits, and nuts more than offset price decreases for vegetables, potatoes, and dry beans.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES TWO POINTS

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 92 based on 1990-92=100, up two points (2.2 percent) from the January index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs more than offset the relatively lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton. These marketing changes accounted for most of the February index increase. Higher prices for hogs, eggs, corn, and soybeans offset price decreases for lettuce, broilers, milk, and apples.

The February Food Grains Index, at 87, was up 2.4 percent from the previous month, but 14 percent below February 1999. The February all wheat price, at \$4.30 per cwt., was up 13 cents from the January price, but 25 cents below February 1999. The rice price, at \$6.09 per cwt., was up 6 cents from last month, but \$2.93 below a year earlier.

The February Feed Grains and Hay Index was 87, up 3.6 percent from last month, but 4.4 percent below February 1999. The corn price, at \$3.50 per cwt., was up 11 cents from January, but 16 cents below the February 1999 price and the lowest February price since 1988. The all hay price, at \$72.60 per ton, was up 80 cents from last month, but \$7.30 below February 1999. Both alfalfa and other hay prices were up from last month, but below a year earlier.

The February Cotton Index, at 72, was up 1.4 percent from January, but 22 percent below February 1999. The cotton price, at 43.4 cents per pound, was up 0.3 of a cent from January, but down 12.2 cents from last February. This is the lowest February cotton price since 1975. Cottonseed prices, at \$108.00 per ton, were up \$7.00 from last month.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 1999	January 2000	February 2000	February 1999	January 2000	Feb. 15, 2000
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.66	3.39	3.50
Wheat 2/	Cwt.	5.02	3/	3/	4.55	4.17	4.30
Oats 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.75	3.75	3.97
Barley 2/	Cwt.	3/	4.69	4.69	3.96	4.27	4.46
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.09	2.86	3.06
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.02	6.03	6.09
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	39.80	27.10	26.80	18.30	16.70	15.80
All Potatoes 4/	Cwt.	16.40	14.70	14.50	5.75	5.91	5.88
Winter	Cwt.	22.20	20.90	19.50	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.00	6.70	6.70	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	97.00	75.00	79.00	79.90	71.80	72.60
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	102.00	81.00	86.00	83.70	74.10	77.40
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	42.00	44.00	44.00	70.10	65.90	66.70
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	0.585	3/	3/	0.556	0.431	0.434
Cottonseed	Ton	199.00	116.00	137.00	136.00	101.00	108.00

1/ 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. 2/ Previous month revised to monthly average. 3/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure. 4/ Monthly average.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000	Feb. 2000	Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000	Feb. 2000
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	610	572 1/	583	96	90	92
All Crops	484	431 1/	441	98	87 1/	89
Food Grains	320	269 1/	276	101	85 1/	87
Feed Grains and Hay	327	300 1/	312	91	84	87
Cotton	470	364 1/	367	92	71 1/	72
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	487	497 1/	495	96	98 1/	98
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,525	1,577 1/	1,580	115	118	119
Parity Ratio 3/	40	36	37	83	76	77

1/ Revised. 2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month. 3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS

Fall potatoes in California storage facilities totaled 1.80 million cwt. as of March 1, 2000, 13 percent more than a year ago.

California's March 1 stocks were 45 percent of the fall potato production, a slight increase from last year's 43 percent.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS BY STATE 1/

State	Crop of 1998			Crop of 1999		
	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 1999	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 2000	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	3,708	1,600	43	4,005	1,800	45
Colorado	25,360	12,000	47	25,762	12,900	50
Idaho	138,000	66,000	48	133,330	65,000	49
Maine	18,060	8,450	47	17,813	9,400	53
Michigan	14,648	4,100	28	14,963	4,200	28
Minnesota	21,170	8,900	42	18,020	6,200	34
Montana	3,180	2,650	83	3,325	2,700	81
Nebraska	8,175	2/	2/	8,904	2/	2/
New York	7,290	800	11	6,758	800	12
North Dakota	28,670	12,800	45	26,400	8,300	31
Ohio	1,200	2/	2/	987	2/	2/
Oregon	26,229	13,000	50	28,020	15,900	57
Pennsylvania	3,360	700	21	3,080	750	24
Washington	93,225	29,500	32	95,200	28,000	29
Wisconsin	30,895	11,000	36	34,000	11,700	34
15-STATE TOTAL	423,170	173,650	41	420,567	170,050	40

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2000 crop. Seed usage in 1999 totaled 29.5 million cwt. 2/ Not published to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROPS YIELD AND PRODUCTION HISTORY

CROP	UNIT	YIELD				PRODUCTION			
		1998	1999	Record High	Record Year	1998	1999	Record High	Record Year
Barley	Tons	1.44	1.54	1.68	1995	180,000	192,000	1,996,896	1957
Beans, Dry	Cwt.	14.80	19.70	22.70	1997	1,554,000	2,600,000	4,109,000	1955
Corn for Grain	Tons	4.48	4.62	4.76	1994/1997	1,097,600	947,100	1,428,000	1984
Cotton, Upland Lint	1/	887.00	1,250.00	1,359.00	1992	1,146,000	1,575,000	3,535,000	1981
Cottonseed	Tons	--	--	--	--	544,000	797,000	1,445,000	1981
Hay, All	Tons	5.25	5.39	5.57	1997	8,554,000	8,462,000	8,652,000	1988
Alfalfa	Tons	6.60	6.80	7.20	1997	6,930,000	7,004,000	7,260,000	1988
Other	Tons	2.80	2.70	3.50	1995	1,624,000	1,458,000	1,855,000	1995
Oats	Tons	1.20	1.36	1.36	1995/1999	36,000	40,800	121,312	1957
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	325.00	376.00	381.00	1986	13,612,000	16,227,000	35,166,000	1966
Rice	Cwt.	68.40	72.60	85.00	1992/1994	32,698,000	38,850,000	42,546,000	1997
Sugar Beets	Tons	27.50	30.90	30.90	1999	2,723,000	3,337,000	9,031,000	1972
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	220.00	245.00	245.00	1999	2,134,000	2,328,000	2,328,000	1999
Wheat, All	Tons	2.09	2.49	2.53	1988	1,156,500	1,133,550	3,166,350	1981

1/ Yield in pounds, production in bales.