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MARCH 1, 2001 PROSPECTIVE PLANTING

The California March intentions' 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 660 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2001. If realized, this would be 15 percent below the acreage seeded in 2000. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 190 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2001, 31 percent above the 145 thousand acres planted last year. Nationally, all cotton planting for 2001 is expected to total 15.6 million acres, up less than 1 percent from last year.

CORN: California farmers were expected to plant 520 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2001, 4 percent less than last year. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 76.7 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2001, down 4 percent from last year.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in California had planted or expected to plant 220 thousand acres of oats, the same as last year. U.S. producers planned to seed 4.43 million acres of oats in 2001, 1 percent below the 4.48 million acres seeded for 2000. Growers stated intentions to harvest 2.20 million acres for grain in 2001.

WHEAT: In California, winter wheat has been seeded on 500 thousand acres, the same as the previous year. Another 85.0 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 15 percent below the 100 thousand acres seeded for 2000. At the U.S. level, 2001's acreage planted to all wheat is expected to total 60.3 million acres, down 4 percent from 2000. Winter wheat seeding is estimated to be 41.3 million acres, down 5 percent. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 3.46 million acres, a decrease of 12 percent from last year.

RICE: California farmers intended to seed rice on 520 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 5 percent less than the 550 thousand acres seeded in 2000. The expressed intentions were to seed 475 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 10.0 thousand to long grain, and 35.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Last year, farmers seeded 507 thousand acres to medium grain, 9.00 thousand to long grain, and 34.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Nationally, growers intended to seed 3.09 million acres this year, an increase of 1 percent from last year.

BARLEY: On March 1, California farmers had planted or intended to plant 130 thousand acres to barley, 18 percent more than the previous year. U.S. growers intended to seed 5.32 million acres for 2001, down 9 percent from last year.

SUGAR BEETS: California producers intended to plant 43.0 thousand acres of sugar beets as of March 1, 56 percent less than 2000. Nationally, the acreage planted to sugar beets for the 2001 crop year is expected to total 1.43 million acres, 8 percent below the 2000 crop year. If growers' intentions are realized, planted acres will decrease in most of the sugar beet producing states.

BEANS, DRY EDIBLE: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 100 thousand acres in California. This would be 13 percent less than the 115 thousand acres seeded last year. Nationally, farmers intend to plant 1.45 million acres of dry edible beans in 2001, down 17 percent from last year.

HAY, ALL: California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.54 million acres as of March 1, 1 percent above the 1.53 million acres harvested last year. U.S. producers expect to harvest 63.8 million acres of hay in 2001, up 7 percent from the 59.9 million acres harvest in 2000.

SWEET POTATOES: California growers intend to plant 9.20 thousand acres in 2001, 5 percent below 2000. U.S. growers intend to plant 96.2 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, down 1 percent from last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	1999	2000	Indicated 2001	2001 2000
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat, Winter 1/				
California	500.0	500.0	500.0	100
U.S.	43,331.0	43,348.0	41,336.0	95
Wheat, Durum				
California 1/	90.0	100.0	85.0	85
U.S.	4,035.0	3,937.0	3,462.0	88
Oats 1/				
California	275.0	220.0	220.0	100
U.S.	4,673.0	4,477.0	4,425.0	99
Barley 1/				
California	140.0	110.0	130.0	118
U.S.	5,194.0	5,844.0	5,321.0	91
Corn, All				
California	525.0	540.0	520.0	96
U.S.	77,386.0	79,545.0	76,693.0	96
Rice				
California:				
All	510.0	550.0	520.0	95
Long	5.0	9.0	10.0	111
Medium	455.0	507.0	475.0	94
Short	50.0	34.0	35.0	103
U.S.:				
All	3,531.0	3,060.0	3,090.0	101
Long	2,731.0	2,206.0	2,383.0	108
Medium	748.0	818.0	670.0	82
Short	52.0	36.0	37.0	103
Cotton, Upland				
California	610.0	775.0	660.0	85
U.S.	14,584.0	15,365.0	15,394.0	100
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	240.0	145.0	190.0	131
U.S.	289.5	171.5	220.0	128
Beans, Dry Edible 2/				
California	135.0	115.0	100.0	87
U.S.	2,023.0	1,756.2	1,452.9	83
Sugar Beets				
California 3/	110.0	98.0	43.0	44
U.S.	1,560.6	1,564.2	1,432.5	92
Hay, All 4/				
California	1,580.0	1,530.0	1,540.0	101
U.S.	63,220.0	59,854.0	63,771.0	107
Potatoes, Sweet				
California	10.0	9.7	9.2	95
U.S.	93.8	97.3	96.2	99

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

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

4/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - MARCH 2001

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for barley, winter potatoes, all hay, and alfalfa hay. Dry edible beans and all potatoes were below the February 2001 price. Fall potatoes and hay other than alfalfa remained the same as February. Mid-month prices for wheat and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure of operations. Prices were above a year earlier for all potatoes, winter potatoes, alfalfa hay, all hay, and hay other than alfalfa. Barley, dry edible beans, and fall potatoes were below March 2000.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP FOUR POINTS

The Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in March was 104 based on 1990-92=100, up four points (4.0 percent) from the February Index. Higher prices for hogs, broilers, milk, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for apples, lettuce, strawberries, and corn. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell often effects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers were partially offset by lower marketings of cattle, cotton, oranges, and corn.

Compared with March 2000, the All Farm Products Index was eight points (8.3 percent) higher. Since March, price increases for milk, cattle, broilers, and strawberries were partially offset by lower prices for soybeans, corn, apples, grapefruit, and potatoes.

The March All Crops Index was 100, up 2.0 percent from February and 5.3 percent above March 2000. From February, index increases for fruits and nuts, potatoes and dry beans, food grains, and cotton more than offset index decreases for tobacco, oil-bearing crops, and feed grains and hay.

The March Food Grains Index, at 93, was up 2.2 percent from the previous month and 8.1 percent above March 2000. The March all wheat price, at \$4.82 per cwt., was up 10 cents from February and 50 cents above March 2000.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index, at 89, was down 1.1 percent from both last month and March 2000. The corn price, at \$3.41 per cwt., was down nine cents from last month and 22 cents below March 2000. The all hay price, at \$87.20 per ton, was 40 cents above February and \$12.40 above last March. Grain sorghum, at \$3.42 per cwt., was down six cents from February, but 21 cents above March of last year.

The March Potatoes and Dry Beans Index, at 94, was 11 percent above last month, but 9.6 percent below March 2000. The all potato price, at \$5.62 per cwt., was up 60 cents from the previous month, but 64 cents below last March. The dry edible bean price, at \$14.80 per cwt., was 40 cents below last month, but 30 cents above March 2000. The all potato price increased as early winter and spring season potatoes and seed sales increased.

The March Cotton Index, at 82, was up 1.2 percent from February and 3.8 percent above March 2000. The March price, at 49.6 cents per pound, was up 0.5 of a cent from the previous month and 1.9 cents above last March.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2000	February 2001	March 2001	March 2000	February 2001	March 2001
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.63	3.50	3.41
Wheat 2/	Cwt.	4.33	3/	3/	4.32	4.72	4.82
Oats 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.00	3.97	3.91
Barley 2/	Cwt.	5.17	4.75	5.00	4.65	4.31	4.50
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.21	3.48	3.42
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.71	5.72	5.70
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	26.70	26.90	26.60	14.50	15.20	14.80
All Potatoes 4/	Cwt.	13.40	13.90	13.60	6.26	5.02	5.62
Winter	Cwt.	18.80	20.10	22.50	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.40	5.45	5.45	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	94.00	101.00	103.00	74.80	86.80	87.20
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	95.00	103.00	105.00	77.70	94.20	93.70
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	78.00	84.00	84.00	68.90	71.20	71.30
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	3/	0.591	3/	0.477	0.491	0.496
Cottonseed	Ton	---	143.00	---	---	114.00	---

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 of operations.

4/ Monthly average.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	March 2000	February 2001	March 2001	March 2000	February 2001	March 2001
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	608	634 1/	659	96	100 1/	104
All Crops	471	482 1/	493	95	98 1/	100
Food Grains	272	291 1/	295	86	91	93
Feed Grains and Hay	323	323 1/	318	90	90 1/	89
Cotton	403	415 1/	419	79	81 1/	82
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	524	431	474	104	85	94
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,585	1,647 1/	1,645	119	124 1/	124
Parity Ratio 3/	38	38	40	81	81 1/	84

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.

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, 2001, California wheat stocks in all positions were 21 percent above a year earlier. Barley off-farm stocks were 3 percent above March 2000. Off-farm corn stocks increased 35 percent. Oats totaled 1.95 thousand tons and sorghum grain totaled 3.67 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. U.S. wheat stocks in all positions were 5 percent below a year earlier as of March 1. Corn stocks were up 8 percent, but barley stocks were down 5 percent. U.S. oat stocks in all positions totaled 1.63 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 4.63 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	15,000	57,000	19,500
Off-Farm ^{1/}	369,450	545,790	445,380
Total	384,450	602,790	464,880
U.S. Total	42,495,630	54,152,580	40,187,220
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm ^{1/ 2/}	57,000	52,896	58,440
U.S. Total	4,085,208	5,492,856	3,888,504
OATS			
California			
Off Farm ^{1/ 2/}	2,128	2,736	1,952
U.S. Total	1,628,800	2,305,744	1,633,904
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm ^{1/ 2/}	197,400	386,820	266,224
U.S. Total	156,853,060	238,620,984	169,045,884
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm ^{1/ 2/}	4,872	1,848	3,668
U.S. Total	6,317,696	7,309,008	4,628,708

^{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, 2001 totaled 1.58 million cwt., 22 percent above the 1.30 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 65 percent of the total milled rice in storage. Nationally, milled rice stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 4.98 million cwt., 9 percent above last year.

California rough rice stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 24.4 million cwt. This was 44 percent above the 17.0 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 21.3 million cwt., with the remainder in mill and farm storage.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	16,966	24,356	90,237	86,020
Long Grain ^{1/}	---	---	62,755	51,428
Medium Grain	14,611	21,812	25,381	32,504
Short Grain ^{1/}	---	---	2,101	2,088
MILLED RICE TOTAL	1,297	1,578	4,570	4,982
Whole Kernels Total	604	1,033	3,310	3,716
Long Grain	37	43	2,506	2,468
Medium Grain	521	911	758	1,164
Short Grain	46	79	46	84
Broken Kernels Total	693	545	1,260	1,266
Second Heads ^{2/}	640	491	937	1,035
Screenings	---	---	85	3
Brewers	53	54	238	228

^{1/} California data not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

^{2/} California figure includes screenings.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
	1,000 Cwt.		
March 1	15,596	16,966	24,356
August 1	4,158	6,792	---
October 1	1,412	4,127	---
December 1	27,337	29,294	37,309

^{1/} Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS

California fall potato stocks as of April 1, 2001 were estimated at 1.00 million cwt., 29 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 27 percent of the 2000 fall production, compared to 35 percent of the previous year.

The 15 major potato states held a record-high 154 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2001, up 20 percent from last year and 4 percent above 1997's record-high. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of 2000 fall storage states' production, up 2 percent from a year ago. Disappearance, at a record-high 308 million cwt., was up 5 percent from the last two years and

4 percent above the 1996 season record. As of April 1, processed potatoes totaled 151 million cwt., up 1 percent from last year in comparable states. March processing of 19.9 million cwt. fell 5 percent short of last year in comparable states.

Western states held 120 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2001, up 24 percent from the last two years. Washington's potato stocks were up 61 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks increased 19 percent, and Oregon's were up 5 percent. Colorado's stocks increased 2 percent from last year and Montana's were up 27 percent.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS BY STATE ^{1/}

State	Crop of 1999			Crop of 2000		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of
	Apr. 1, 2000 ^{2/}		Production	Apr. 1, 2001 ^{2/}		Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	4,005	1,400	35	3,741	1,000	27
Colorado	25,762	10,100	39	27,972	10,300	37
Idaho	133,330	50,000	38	152,320	59,500	39
Maine	17,813	7,200	40	17,920	6,600	37
Michigan	14,963	2,700	18	14,963	1,500	10
Minnesota	18,020	4,700	26	21,240	8,100	38
Montana	3,325	1,650	50	3,503	2,100	60
Nebraska	8,904	---	---	10,127	---	---
New York	6,758	700	10	5,964	300	5
North Dakota	26,400	6,900	26	26,950	9,100	34
Ohio	987	---	---	1,134	---	---
Oregon	28,020	13,000	46	30,683	13,600	44
Pennsylvania	3,080	500	16	3,510	300	9
Washington	95,200	20,500	22	108,000	33,000	31
Wisconsin	34,000	7,700	23	33,800	6,700	20
Other States	---	1,360	---	---	1,930	---
15-STATE TOTAL	420,567	128,410	31	461,827	154,030	33

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2001 potatoes; 2000 crop seed usage totaled 29.5 million cwt.

^{2/} Nebraska and Ohio combined into "Other States."

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

California's 2001 *winter* potato production forecast is 2.79 million cwt., down 3 percent from a year ago. The area for harvest is 9.00 thousand acres, the same as last year. The average yield is 310 cwt. per acre, down 3 percent from last year. Growing conditions were relatively good resulting in a 10 cwt. increase since January's yield forecast. *Spring* production, at 6.63 million cwt., is 11 percent below last year. Reduced acreage and lower expected yields both contributed to this decrease. Most of the spring crop is progressing normally, although some fields experienced cool, wet weather early in the season. Harvest is expected to start in May, about two weeks later than normal. California's 2000 *summer* potato planted and harvested acreage were revised and both are forecast at 6,500 acres, down 3 percent from 1999.

Nationally, the 2001 *winter* potato production is estimated to be 3.99 million cwt., up 6 percent from the January forecast, but 20 percent below last year. Area for harvest, at 14,000 acres, is down 18 percent from a year ago. The average yield is 285 cwt. per acre, up 17 cwt. from January, but 7 cwt. below a year ago. The *spring* production forecast is 20.3 million cwt. for 2001, down 8 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated to be 74,500 acres, down 1 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 272 cwt. per acre, down 18 cwt. from last year. The U.S. *summer* potato production estimate for 2000 was revised to 18.7 million cwt., up 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Annual Crop Production Summary.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
WINTER								
California	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	320	310	2,880	2,790
Florida	8.2	7.8	8.0	5.0	260	240	2,080	1,200
U.S. Total	17.2	16.8	17.0	14.0	292	285	4,960	3,990
SPRING								
Alabama ^{1/}	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Arizona	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	280	280	2,520	2,520
California	18.8	17.0	18.8	17.0	395	390	7,426	6,630
Florida	22.3	22.6	21.5	22.0	295	260	6,343	5,720
Hastings	17.2	17.0	16.5	16.5	295	260	4,868	4,290
Other	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.5	295	260	1,475	1,430
No. Carolina ^{2/}	17.5	18.0	17.0	17.5	200	190	3,400	3,325
Texas	9.8	9.5	9.3	9.0	240	230	2,232	2,070
U.S. Total	77.4	76.1	75.6	74.5	290	272	21,921	20,265
SUMMER ^{3/}								
California	6.5	---	6.5	---	355	---	2,308	---
Colorado	8.1	---	7.9	---	355	---	2,805	---
Texas	8.4	---	7.8	---	380	---	2,964	---
U.S. Total	64.7	---	61.8	---	303	---	18,698	---

^{1/} Spring estimates combined with summer starting with 2000 crop year.

^{2/} Summer estimates combined with spring starting with 2000 crop year.

^{3/} Revised data for 2000.