

California Field Crop Review



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California's Durum wheat production is forecast at 257 thousand tons, down 5 percent from 2002. Acreage expected for harvest, at 95 thousand, is 6 percent above last year's acreage. The expected yield of 2.71 tons per acre is 10 percent below the previous year.

United States winter wheat production is forecast to be 46.9 million tons, up 37 percent from 2002. Based on conditions as of May 1, the U.S. yield is expected to average 1.29 tons, 11 percent above May 2002. Harvested acreage was estimated at 36.4 million acres, up 23 percent from 2002.

The U.S. estimate for Durum wheat production for states other than Arizona and California will not be available until July 11, 2003.

WHEAT FORECAST

California farmers are expected to produce 735 thousand tons of winter wheat in 2003, up 9 percent from last year. The 350 thousand acres expected to be harvested for grain is 17 percent above last year. The yield is expected to average 2.10 tons per acre, down 7 percent from last year.

WHEAT FORECAST

Crop and Location	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres		Tons		1,000 Tons	
WINTER California	300	350	2.25	2.10	675	735
UNITED STATES	29,651	36,447	1.16	1.29	34,284	46,899
DURUM California	90	95	3.00	2.71	270	257
Arizona	89	103	2.85	2.91	254	300
UNITED STATES	2,703	a/	0.88	b/	2,384	b/

a/ Published June 30, 2003.

b/ Published July 11, 2003.

2002 COTTON PRODUCTION

California farmers produced 1.46 million bales (480-lb. net weight) of Upland cotton in 2002, 18 percent less than the 1.77 million bales produced in 2001. Harvested acreage, at 477 thousand, was 24 percent below the 625 thousand harvested the previous year. The average yield was a record-high 1,469 pounds per acre, 110 pounds above 2001.

American-Pima production in California totaled 603 thousand bales, down 6 percent from the 639 thousand bales produced the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 209 thousand, was 13 percent below the 239 thousand harvested in 2001. The average yield was a record-high 1,386 pounds per acre, 103 pounds above the previous year. The growers planted their crop under almost ideal conditions. The crop progressed well during the year despite some early cool spells in late April and early May. Growth of Pima cotton during the summer months was good-to-excellent, with crop progress slightly ahead of average. Insect pressure remained light with the typical small numbers

of whiteflies and aphids late in the season. Harvest began in early October. By mid-December, virtually the entire crop had been harvested with only a few fields remaining to be picked a second time.

All cotton production in the United States totaled 17.2 million bales, 15 percent below the record-high 2001 production. Upland cotton production, at 16.5 million bales, was 16 percent less than the previous year. American-Pima production totaled 678 thousand bales, down 3 percent from 2001.

The area planted to all cotton totaled 14.0 million acres, down 11 percent from 2001. Harvested area decreased 10 percent to 12.4 million acres. Yields for the U.S. averaged 665 pounds per harvested acre, down 40 pounds per acre from a year ago.

COTTON AND COTTONSEED

Commodity Item	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/
UPLAND COTTON:					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	630.0	480.0	15,498.5	13,714.0
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	625.0	477.0	13,559.5	12,184.0
Yield	Lbs./Acre	1,359.0	1,469.0	694.0	651.0
Production 2/	1,000 Bales	1,770.0	1,460.0	19,602.4	16,530.3
Price 3/ 4/	Cents/Lb.	41.6	53.8	29.8	40.5
Value	1,000 Dollars	353,434.0	377,030.0	2,803,927.0	3,213,490.0
AMERICAN-PIMA COTTON:					
Acres Planted	1,000 Acres	240.0	210.0	270.0	243.9
Acres Harvested	1,000 Acres	239.0	209.0	268.2	242.6
Yield	Lbs./Acre	1,283.0	1,386.0	1,254.0	1,342.0
Production 2/	1,000 Bales	639.0	603.3	700.4	678.3
Price 3/ 4/	Cents/Lb.	85.6	85.1	85.6	84.6
Value	1,000 Dollars	262,552.0	246,436.0	287,780.0	275,444.0
COTTONSEED:					
Production	1,000 Tons	849.0	731.0	7,452.2	6,183.9
Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Tons	20.0	81.0	3,860.9	3,287.9
Other Farm Disposition 5/	1,000 Tons	829.0	650.0	3,591.3	2,896.0
Used for Planting 6/ 7/	1,000 Tons	5.9	6.0	138.8	141.3
Price 3/ 4/	Dollars/Ton	142.0	139.0	90.5	100.0
Value	1,000 Dollars	120,558.0	101,609.0	674,424.1	618,390.0
Value of Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Dollars	2,840.0	11,259.0	349,411.5	328,790.0

1/ Revised 2002 data. Net weight bales are 480 lbs.

2/ Production ginned and to be ginned.

3/ Marketing year average price.

4/ The 2002 data is an average to January 1, 2003.

5/ Includes planting seed, feed, exports, inter-farm sales, shrinkage, losses, and other uses.

6/ Included in "other" farm disposition. Planting seed from previous year's crop.

7/ Revised 2001 data.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - APRIL 2003

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

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP TWO POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April is 101, based on 1990-92=100, up two points (2 percent) from the March index. Higher prices for cattle, lettuce, onions, and soybeans more than offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat, and hogs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past three-year average, also affect the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, cattle, oranges, and milk offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and wheat.

The April All Crops Index, at 111, is up 5.7 percent from March and 11 percent above April 2002. From March, index increases for commercial vegetables, fruits and nuts, potatoes and dry beans, oil-bearing crops, and feed grains and hay more than offset index decreases for tobacco, food grains, and cotton.

The April Food Grains Index, at 97, is down 4 percent from the previous month, but 15 percent above April 2002. The April all wheat price, at \$111.33 per ton, is down \$6.67 from March, but \$17.00 greater than April 2002. The rice price, at \$4.22 per cwt., increased eight cents from March and is 28 cents above April 2002.

The April Feed Grains & Hay Index, at 107, is up 0.9 percent from last month and 16 percent above April 2002. The corn price, at \$83.93 per ton, is up 72 cents from last month and \$15.72 above April 2002. The all hay price, at \$94.50 per ton, is \$1.70 above March, but \$3.80 below last April.

The April Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 116, is 5.5 percent above last month, but 16 percent below April 2002. The all potato price, at \$7.11 per cwt., is up 43 cents from the previous month, but 89 cents below last April. The dry edible bean price, at \$15.50 per cwt., is 30 cents above last month, but \$12.00 below April 2002.

The April Cotton Index, at 74, is down 5.1 percent from March, but 64 percent above April 2002. The April price, at 45 cents per pound, is down 2.3 cents from the previous month, but 17.8 cents above last April.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 2002	March 2003	Apr. 15, 2003	April 2002	March 2003	Apr. 15, 2003
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Ton	---	---	---	68.21	83.21	83.93
Wheat 2/	Ton	3/	3/	3/	94.33	118.00	111.33
Oats 2/	Ton	---	---	---	124.38	130.00	123.75
Barley 2/	Ton	3/	3/	3/	87.08	117.92	119.58
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.13	3.94	3.96
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.94	4.14	4.22
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	32.20	32.70	32.10	27.50	15.20	15.50
All Potatoes 4/	Cwt.	25.60	15.00	21.30	8.00	6.68	7.11
Winter	Cwt.	34.80	22.90	27.30	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.60	8.35	7.90	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	119.00	99.00	97.00	98.30	92.80	94.50
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	121.00	99.00	98.00	103.00	96.20	96.20
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	90.00	95.00	89.00	79.50	82.30	86.40
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	3/	0.568	3/	0.272	0.473	0.450
Cottonseed	Lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---

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		
	April 2002	March 2003	April 2003	April 2002	March 2003	April 2003
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	597	628 1/	644	94	99	101
All Crops	492	520 1/	549	100	105 1/	111
Food Grains	267	322 1/	308	84	101 1/	97
Feed Grains and Hay	328	380 1/	383	92	106 1/	107
Cotton	230	400 1/	380	45	78 1/	74
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	701	555 1/	589	138	110	116
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,639	1,692 1/	1,701	123	127 1/	128
Parity Ratio 3/	36	37 1/	38	76 1/	78 1/	79

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.

SPRING POTATOES

California's spring production, at 7.59 million cwt., is down 3 percent from last month's forecast and 1 percent less than a year ago. The spring potato crop has developed normally thus far, with no major problems reported. Overall, growing conditions are good, but lighter sets have been reported for some varieties. Growers in the Kern County area expect to start harvesting ahead of normal.

Nationally, the 2002 spring potato production forecast, at 22.3 million cwt., is down 6 percent from the April 1 forecast and 4 percent below last year. The area for harvest is estimated at 82.9 thousand acres, down 1 percent from the April estimate and 4 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 269 cwt. per acre, down 13 cwt. from the April 1 forecast and 2 cwt. below a year ago.

SPRING POTATOES

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		
Arizona	7.8	7.6	270	275	2,214	2,106	2,090
California	19.0	18.5	405	410	6,045	7,695	7,585
Florida	26.3	27.3	300	250	7,970	7,883	6,825
Hastings	19.0	19.0	315	250	5,940	5,985	4,750
Other	7.3	8.3	260	250	2,030	1,898	2,075
North Carolina	21.0	17.0	170	165	3,515	3,570	2,805
Texas	12.0	12.5	170	240	2,070	2,040	3,000
UNITED STATES	86.1	82.9	271	269	21,814	23,294	22,305

MAY 1 FALL POTATO STOCKS

California's fall potato stocks were estimated at 400 thousand cwt. as of May 1, 2003. Stocks represented 9 percent of the fall production.

Processors used 161 million cwt. of the 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 9 percent from a year ago, but 5 percent below two years ago. April usage of 16.5 million cwt. is virtually the same as last year, but 11 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 36.1 million cwt. to date.

The 15 major potato storage states held 83.2 million cwt. of potatoes on May 1, 2003, up 2 percent from last year, but 24 percent below 2001. Potatoes in storage account for 20 percent of the 2002 fall storage states' production, down 1 percent from last year.

Western states held 65.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, up 4 percent from last year, but 26 percent below two years ago. Potato stocks in Idaho and Colorado are both up 6 percent from last year. Washington's potato stocks are 8 percent above last year, but Oregon's storage is down 26 percent. Montana's stocks are down 11 percent.

Disappearance, at 328 million cwt., from the start of harvest in 2002 to May 1, is up 7 percent from the same period last year, but 6 percent below two years ago. April disappearance was 41.9 million cwt., up 8 percent from a year ago but 6 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 25.8 million cwt., is up 3 percent from last year, but 28 percent below two years ago.

MAY 1 FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS 1/

State	Crop of 2001			Crop of 2002		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of
	1,000 Cwt.	May 1, 2002 2/	Production	1,000 Cwt.	May 1, 2003 2/	Production
California	1,424	---	---	4,450	400	9
Colorado	21,357	5,100	24	27,885	5,400	19
Idaho	120,200	32,500	27	133,385	34,500	26
Maine	16,430	3,300	20	16,960	3,800	22
Michigan	13,950	400	3	13,878	900	6
Minnesota	18,425	4,300	23	18,700	4,500	24
Montana	3,296	450	14	3,224	400	12
Nebraska	8,400	---	---	8,611	---	---
New York	5,942	---	---	5,500	---	---
North Dakota	26,400	6,900	26	23,460	4,700	20
Ohio	1,097	---	---	1,008	---	---
Oregon	20,730	6,500	31	24,936	4,800	19
Pennsylvania	3,173	---	---	2,590	---	---
Washington	94,400	18,000	19	95,200	19,500	20
Wisconsin	31,955	3,000	9	31,125	2,900	9
Other States	---	750	---	---	1,380	---
15-STATE TOTAL	387,179	81,200	21	410,912	83,180	20

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2003 potatoes. Crop seed usage for 2002 totaled 29.3 million cwt.

2/ California, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are combined into "Other States."

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of hay on California farms totaled 200 thousand tons as of May 1, 2003. This is 9 percent of the December 1 stocks and was 14 percent below May 1, 2002.

United States May 1 hay stocks totaled 22.2 million tons of hay on farms. This was 21 percent of the December 1 stocks and 9 percent below May 1 of the previous year.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	2000	2001	2002	2001	2002	2003
	1,000 Tons					
California	1,954	1,961	2,235	180	232	200
Arizona	250	223	203	33	28	45
Nevada	801	776	881	112	111	167
Oregon	1,766	1,901	2,550	241	183	330
Utah	1,150	1,470	1,200	200	210	175
UNITED STATES	105,582	110,510	103,756	21,106	22,494	22,188

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