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MARCH 1, 2004 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

California's 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 560 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2004. If realized, this would be 2 percent above the acreage seeded in 2003. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 200 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2004, 33 percent above the 150 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2004 are expected to total 14.4 million acres, 7 percent above last year.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 550 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2004, 6 percent above last year. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2004, slightly above the previous year's acreage.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 280 thousand acres of oats, 8 percent above last year. **U.S.** producers planned to seed 4.31 million acres, down 6 percent from last year's planted area.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 550 thousand acres, 19 percent below the previous year. Another 110 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 15 percent below the 130 thousand acres seeded for 2003. At the **U.S.** level, 2004's all wheat planted area is expected to total 59.5 million acres, down 4 percent from 2003. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from the previous year's acreage. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 2.76 million acres, a decrease of 5 percent from last year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 556 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 9 percent more than the 509 thousand acres seeded in 2003. The expressed intentions were to seed 510 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 6.00 thousand to long grain, and 40.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Last year, farmers seeded 460 thousand acres to medium grain, 7.00 thousand to long grain, and 42.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 3.26 million acres this year, up 8 percent from 2003.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 110 thousand acres to barley, 10 percent above the previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 4.68 million acres for 2004, down 12 percent from last year.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers had planted or intended to plant 50.5 thousand acres of sugar beets as of March 1. This is 1 percent less than the 2003 crop year. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2004 crop year is expected to total 1.36 million acres, slightly below the 2003 planted acreage.

BEANS, DRY EDIBLE: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 73.0 thousand acres in **California**. This would be 5 percent less than the 77.0 thousand acres seeded last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.33 million acres of dry edible beans in 2004, down 5 percent from last year.

ALL HAY: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.48 million acres as of March 1, 6 percent below the 1.57 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres of hay in 2004, up 1 percent from the 63.3 million acres harvested in 2003.

POTATOES, SWEET: **California** growers intend to plant 11.0 thousand acres in 2004, 6 percent above 2003. **U.S.** growers intend to plant 98.3 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, 3 percent above last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	2002	2003	Indicated 2004	2004 2003
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat, Winter 1/				
California	530.0	675.0	550.0	81
U.S.	41,766.0	44,945.0	43,372.0	97
Wheat, Durum				
California 1/	95.0	130.0	110.0	85
U.S.	2,913.0	2,915.0	2,757.0	95
Oats 1/				
California	260.0	260.0	280.0	108
U.S.	4,995.0	4,601.0	4,312.0	94
Barley 1/				
California	130.0	100.0	110.0	110
U.S.	5,008.0	5,299.0	4,683.0	88
Corn, All				
California	545.0	520.0	550.0	106
U.S.	78,894.0	78,736.0	79,004.0	100
Rice				
California:				
All	533.0	509.0	556.0	109
Long	7.0	7.0	6.0	86
Medium	500.0	460.0	510.0	111
Short 2/	26.0	42.0	40.0	95
U.S.:				
All	3,240.0	3,022.0	3,260.0	108
Long	2,537.0	2,332.0	2,526.0	108
Medium	676.0	647.0	693.0	107
Short	27.0	43.0	41.0	95
Cotton, Upland				
California	480.0	550.0	560.0	102
U.S.	13,714.0	13,304.0	14,175.0	107
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	210.0	150.0	200.0	133
U.S.	243.9	179.1	226.6	127
Beans, Dry Edible 3/				
California	92.0	77.0	73.0	95
U.S.	1,929.7	1,406.1	1,333.0	95
Sugar Beets				
California 4/	50.2	50.8	50.5	99
U.S. 5/	1,427.3	1,365.4	1,358.6	100
Hay, All 6/				
California	1,750.0	1,570.0	1,480.0	94
U.S.	63,942.0	63,342.0	63,731.0	101
Potatoes, Sweet				
California	10.4	10.4	11.0	106
U.S.	96.4	95.6	98.3	103

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Sweet rice acreage in 2003 and 2004, but not in previous years.

3/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

4/ Relates to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central California and to year of planting for overwintered beets in central and southern California.

5/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all states, except California.

6/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - MARCH 2004

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for dry edible beans, all hay, alfalfa hay, all potatoes, and winter potatoes. Wheat, fall potatoes, and Upland cotton lint were below the previous month. Prices for hay other than alfalfa remained unchanged from February. There were insufficient sales to establish a mid-month price for barley. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans and Upland cotton lint. Fall potatoes remained the same as the previous year. All potatoes, winter potatoes, and all types of hay were below March 2003's level.

U.S. FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX REACHES RECORD HIGH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March is 122, based on 1990-92=100, six points (5.2 percent) above the February Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910. The Livestock Products Index increased eight points (7.1 percent) from February, while the All Crops Index increased four points (3.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, milk, and eggs. Lower prices were received for lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, and asparagus. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affect the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and onions.

The March All Crops Index is 124, up 3.3 percent from February and 17 percent above March 2003. From February, index increases for oil-bearing crops, potatoes and dry beans, and feed grains and hay more than offset the index decreases for tobacco, commercial vegetables, and cotton.

The March Food Grains Index, at 121, is 0.8 percent below the previous month, but 19 percent above March 2003. The March all wheat price, at \$123.67 per ton, is down \$2.00 from February, but \$5.34 above March 2003.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 119, up 5.3 percent from last month and 12 percent above March 2003. The corn price, at \$99.64 per ton, is up \$6.43 from last month and \$16.43 above March 2003. The all hay price, at \$81.80 per ton, is \$1.90 above February, but \$11.00 below last March. Grain sorghum, at \$4.86 per cwt., is up 10 cents from February and 92 cents above March last year.

The March Cotton Index, at 102, is 1 percent below February but 28 percent above March 2003. The March price, at 61.8 cents per pound, is down 0.9 cents from the previous month, but 13.2 cents above last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 107, is up 7 percent from last month, but 2.7 percent below March 2003. The all potato price, at \$6.30 per cwt., is up 37 cents from February, but 57 cents below last March. The all dry bean price, at \$19.00 per cwt., is up \$1.50 from the previous month and \$3.10 above March 2003.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	83.21	93.21	99.64
Wheat 2/	Tons	3/	122.00	121.67	118.33	125.67	123.67
Oats 2/	Tons	---	---	---	130.00	98.75	96.88
Barley 2/	Tons	3/	4/	4/	117.92	113.33	112.92
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.94	4.76	4.86
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.31	7.74	7.72
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	32.70	32.50	33.00	15.90	17.50	19.00
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	15.90	17.10	19.70	6.87	5.93	6.30
Winter	Cwt.	23.80	19.30	26.30	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.60	9.65	9.45	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Tons	99.00	96.00	97.00	92.80	79.90	81.80
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Tons	99.00	97.00	98.00	96.70	84.70	85.90
Other Hay, Baled	Tons	95.00	85.00	85.00	77.90	69.90	70.90
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs.	0.568	0.729	0.706	0.486	0.627	0.618
Cottonseed	Tons	---	3/	---	---	140.00	---

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/ Insufficient sales to establish a price.

5/ Monthly average.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	628	734 1/	773	99	116 1/	122
All Crops	522	592 1/	612	106	120 1/	124
Food Grains	326	388 1/	383	102	122 1/	121
Feed Grains and Hay	380	403 1/	426	106	113 1/	119
Cotton	411	530 1/	522	80	103 1/	102
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	557	508 1/	542	110	100 1/	107
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,704	1,736 1/	1,744	128	130	131
Parity Ratio 3/	37	42	44	77	89 1/	93

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, 2004, **California** wheat stocks in all positions were 23 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks of sorghum grain were 110 percent above March 2003. Off-farm corn stocks were 32 percent below March 2003. Barley off-farm stocks were 51 percent below March 2003. Oats totaled 2.62 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. **U.S.** wheat stocks in all positions were 12 percent above a year earlier as of March 1. Corn stocks were up 3 percent, and barley stocks were up 23 percent. U.S. oat stocks in all positions totaled 1.52 million tons, while sorghum grain stocks totaled 4.44 million tons.

**GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS
(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)**

Grain and Position	Tons		
	Mar. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2003 1/	Mar. 1, 2004
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	24,000	48,000	18,000
Off-Farm 2/	311,190	462,750	394,380
Total	335,190	510,750	412,380
U.S. Total	27,198,990	45,608,520	30,570,930
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	32,064	19,944	15,744
U.S. Total	2,962,560	4,749,096	3,635,616
OATS			
California			
Off Farm 2/ 3/	3,760	3,504	2,624
U.S. Total	1,326,064	1,908,800	1,521,104
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	207,228	166,964	141,596
U.S. Total	143,692,444	222,705,700	147,577,948
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	3,164	6,384	6,636
U.S. Total	4,561,844	6,606,208	4,442,256

1/ Revised.

2/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

3/ 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, 2004 totaled 3.14 million cwt. This was 51 percent above the 2.08 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 68 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks totaled 6.33 million cwt. in all positions on March 1, 4 percent below last year.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 22.0 million cwt. on March 1, 2004. This was 1 percent below the 22.2 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 18.3 million cwt., with the remainder in mill storage. **Nationally**, rough rice in all positions on March 1 totaled 87.8 million cwt., down 14 percent from the total on March 1, 2003.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1, 2003	Mar. 1, 2004	Mar. 1, 2003	Mar. 1, 2004
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	22,241	22,014	102,578	87,840
Long Grain 1/	---	---	75,773	59,671
Medium Grain	20,564	20,111	25,529	26,562
Short Grain 1/	---	---	1,316	1,607
MILLED RICE TOTAL	2,084	3,141	6,627	6,333
Whole Kernels Total	1,207	2,144	5,066	4,998
Long Grain	15	26	3,656	2,682
Medium Grain	1,134	1,997	1,351	2,194
Short Grain	58	121	59	122
Broken Kernels Total	877	997	1,561	1,335
Second Heads 2/	800	965	1,190	1,199
Screenings	---	---	146	22
Brewers	77	32	225	114

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

2/ California figure includes screenings.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	36,051	36,759	33,380
March 1	24,091	22,241	22,014
August 1	8,213	7,043	---
October 1 a/	3,488	3,154	---

a/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS

California fall potato stocks were estimated at 1.50 million cwt. as of April 1, 2004, 6 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 44 percent of the 2003 fall production, compared to 37 percent of the previous year.

The 15 major potato States held 126 million cwt. of potatoes in storage April 1, 2004, up less than 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Disappearance of 278 million cwt. of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year, but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 25.0 million cwt. so far this season, is up 4 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss included unmarketable Maine potatoes disposed of through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's

Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Processors used 137 million cwt. of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago, but 4 percent above two years ago. March usage of 16.9 million cwt. is 6 percent below last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 30.3 million cwt. to date, down 5 percent from last year.

Western States held 86.9 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 5 percent from last year, Washington decreased 7 percent, Colorado's storage held 29 percent less. Potato sheds in both Oregon and Montana stored 11 percent more than last year at this time.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS BY STATE 1/

State	Crop of 2002			Crop of 2003		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of Production
	Apr. 1, 2003 2/		Percent	Apr. 1, 2004 2/		Percent
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California 3/	4,316	1,600	37	3,444	1,500	44
Colorado	27,885	9,900	36	23,652	7,000	30
Idaho	133,385	49,000	37	123,180	46,500	38
Maine	16,960	6,300	37	17,030	6,500	38
Michigan	13,878	2,900	21	15,015	3,100	21
Minnesota 3/	18,810	6,100	32	22,330	7,600	34
Montana	3,224	1,900	59	3,339	2,100	63
Nebraska	8,611	---	---	9,860	---	---
New York	5,500	220	4	6,510	750	12
North Dakota	23,460	7,900	34	27,440	11,200	41
Ohio 3/	902	---	---	1,290	---	---
Oregon	24,936	7,500	30	20,991	8,300	40
Pennsylvania 3/	2,128	400	19	3,915	500	13
Washington 3/	92,340	23,000	25	93,150	21,500	23
Wisconsin 3/	30,750	7,100	23	32,800	7,300	22
Other States	---	2,050	---	---	2,560	---
15-STATE TOTAL 3/	407,085	125,870	31	403,946	126,410	31

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2004 potatoes; 2003 crop seed usage totaled 28.3 million cwt.

2/ Nebraska and Ohio combined into "Other States."

3/ Production for 2002 was revised in *Field Crops, Final Estimates 1997-2002* publication released March 17, 2004. Stocks will be revised in *Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes, Final Estimates 1997-2002* publication tentatively scheduled for release August 20, 2004.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

California's 2004 winter potato production forecast is 2.13 million cwt., 19 percent below a year ago. The area for harvest at 8.50 thousand acres remained the same as the previous year. The average yield is 250 cwt. per acre, 19 percent below last year. This reduced yield was caused by a freeze during the growing season in the Imperial Valley. Spring production, at 6.83 million cwt., is 18 percent below last year. Planting proceeded normally in general, and overall growing conditions have been good. In some areas, the potato crop was affected by a frost, resulting in smaller sizes. California's summer potato planted acreage for the 2003 crop year is estimated at 7.50 thousand acres. Harvested acreage is estimated at 7.20 thousand acres. Cool, wet spring weather delayed planting, and harvesting was slightly behind schedule overall. A subsequent heat wave damaged the summer crop, and resulted in lost production. Otherwise, crop quality was reported to be good for most areas.

Nationally, the 2004 winter potato production is estimated at 3.50 million cwt., 9 percent below the January forecast and 13 percent less than last year. Area for harvest, at 14.0 thousand acres, is down 2 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 250 cwt. per acre, is 32 cwt. below a year ago. Spring production in 2004 is forecast at 19.7 million cwt., down 20 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 72.5 thousand acres, 14 percent below 2003. The average yield is forecast at 271 cwt. per acre, down 17 cwt. from a year ago. The final production estimate for the 2003 U.S. summer potato crop is 19.0 million cwt., down 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the "January Annual Crop Production Summary," but 6 percent above 2002. Harvested area covered 59.0 thousand acres, down 1 percent from the January estimate and down less than 1 percent from 2002. The average yield of 322 cwt. per acre is down 2 cwt. from the January preliminary estimate.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
WINTER								
California	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	310	250	2,635	2,125
Florida	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.5	240	250	1,392	1,375
U.S. Total	14.6	14.2	14.3	14.0	282	250	4,027	3,500
SPRING								
Arizona	7.6	7.0	7.6	7.0	275	280	2,090	1,960
California	19.0	17.5	19.0	17.5	440	390	8,360	6,825
Florida	30.0	22.8	28.6	22.5	280	249	8,008	5,605
Hastings	21.5	16.2	20.3	16.0	280	265	5,684	4,240
Other	8.5	6.6	8.3	6.5	280	210	2,324	1,365
No. Carolina	19.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	175	190	2,975	2,850
Texas	13.0	11.0	12.5	10.5	240	230	3,000	2,415
U.S. Total	88.6	74.3	84.7	72.5	288	271	24,433	19,655
SUMMER 1/								
California	7.5	---	7.2	---	385	---	2,772	---
Colorado	6.8	---	6.7	---	380	---	2,546	---
Texas	9.0	---	8.4	---	420	---	3,528	---
U.S. Total	63.7	---	59.0	---	322	---	19,008	---

1/ Revised data for 2003.