



# California Field Crop Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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### CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - FEBRUARY 2009

Mid-February prices received by California farmers increased from January for winter potatoes and cottonseed. Prices for dry edible beans, all potatoes, fall potatoes and all hay types of hay were below the previous month. Wheat and upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There were insufficient data to establish a mid-February price for oats and barley. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, all potatoes, winter potatoes and other hay. All hay and alfalfa hay were below February 2008 levels. Mid-February prices for fall potatoes remained unchanged from the previous year.

### U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 127 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 12 points (8.6 percent) from January. The Crop Index is down 12 points (7.5 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 5 points (4.4 percent). Producers received lower prices for lettuce, milk, corn and eggs, and higher prices for snap beans, strawberries, hogs and turkeys. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, milk, broilers and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat and cotton. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 19 points (13 percent) from February 2008. The Food Commodities

Index, at 122, decreased 12 points (9.0 percent) from last month and 22 points (15 percent) from February 2008.

The February All Crops Index is 148, down 7.5 percent from January and 9.8 percent below February 2008. Index decreases for commercial vegetables, cotton, feed grains & hay, food grains, and oil-bearing crops more than offset the index increase for fruits & nuts.

The February Food Grains Index, at 207, is down 4.6 percent from the previous month and 29 percent below a year ago. The February all wheat price, at \$191.00 per ton, is down \$16.00 from January and \$145.67 below February 2008.

The February Feed Grains & Hay Index is 179, down 4.8 percent from last month and 7.3 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$147.50 per ton, is down \$8.21 from last month and \$14.64 below February 2008. The all hay price, at \$132.00 per ton, declined \$4.00 from January, but increased \$3.00 from last February. Sorghum grain, at \$5.09 per cwt., is 75 cents below January and down \$3.26 from February last year.

The February Cotton Index, at 72, is down 5.3 percent from January and 31 percent below last year. The February price, at 43.6 cents per pound, is down 2.5 cents from the previous month and 19.4 cents from last February.

The February Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 157, is down 5.4 percent from last month but 17 percent above February 2008. The all potato price, at \$8.94 per cwt., is down 46 cents from January, but up \$1.43 from last February. The all dry bean price, at \$34.30 per cwt., is down \$1.20 from the previous month, but \$2.30 above February 2008.

### AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2008	January 2009	15-Feb-2009	February 2008	January 2009	15-Feb-2009
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	162.14	155.71	147.50
Wheat 2/	Tons	3/	3/	3/	336.67	207.00	191.00
Oats 2/	Tons	4/	4/	4/	199.38	171.25	141.88
Barley 2/	Tons	---	4/	4/	182.50	220.42	223.75
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	8.35	5.84	5.09
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	12.60	17.00	16.80
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	47.30	67.10	64.00	32.00	35.50	34.30
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	10.40	17.10	16.70	7.51	9.40	8.94
Winter	Cwt.	16.30	22.10	24.50	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.60	9.25	8.60	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	191.00	159.00	157.00	129.00	136.00	132.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	208.00	163.00	162.00	138.00	149.00	143.00
Other Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	131.00	144.00	137.00	113.00	110.00	107.00
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs	0.734	3/	3/	0.630	0.461	0.436
Cottonseed	Tons	3/	199.00	228.00	175.00	214.00	213.00

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/ Insufficient data 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		
	Feb 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Feb 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	925	880 1/	805	146	139 1/	127
All Crops	812	795 1/	733	164	160 1/	148
Food Grains	927	687 1/	656	293	217 1/	207
Feed Grains and Hay	689	672 1/	638	193	188 1/	179
Cotton	533	390 1/	369	104	76 1/	72
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	680	843 1/	797	134	166 1/	157
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities.						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	2,280	2,335	2,302	171	175	173
Parity Ratio 3/	41	38	35	85	79	73

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 1/**

State	Crop of 2007			Crop of 2008		
	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 2008	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 2009	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	3,792	1,100	29	3,939	1,000	25
Colorado	20,981	9,500	45	21,338	10,900	51
Idaho	130,010	60,500	47	114,805	54,000	47
Maine	16,668	8,000	48	14,769	7,100	48
Michigan	14,700	3,700	25	14,875	3,500	24
Minnesota	21,560	8,200	38	20,400	8,700	43
Montana	3,696	3,100	84	3,465	3,000	87
Nebraska	8,217	3,000	37	8,342	3,500	42
New York	5,216	1,200	23	5,696	800	14
North Dakota	23,660	8,000	34	22,680	8,100	36
Oregon	20,293	11,600	57	18,676	9,800	52
Washington	100,800	35,400	35	93,000	31,400	34
Wisconsin	28,160	10,100	36	25,730	9,200	36
13-State Total	397,753	163,400	41	367,715	151,000	41
Klamath Basin 2/	---	2,050	---	---	2,000	---

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2008 totaled 24.5 million cwt.

2/ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

**CALIFORNIA FIELD CROPS YIELD AND PRODUCTION HISTORY**

Crop	Unit	Yield				Production			
		2007	2008	Record High	Record Year	2007	2008	Record High	Record Year
Barley	Tons	1.54	1.32	1.68	1995	61,440	72,600	1,996,896	1957
Beans, Dry	Cwt.	20.90	18.50	22.70	1997	1,212,000	960,000	4,109,000	1955
Corn for Grain	Tons	5.10	5.46	5.46	2008	968,240	928,200	1,428,000	1984
Cotton, Upland Lint	1/	1,608.00	1,518.00	1,608.00	2007	650,000	370,000	3,535,000	1981
Cottonseed	Tons	--	--	--	--	546,000	290,000	1,445,000	1981
Hay, All	Tons	5.76	5.80	5.85	2003	9,042,000	8,816,000	9,568,000	2006
Hay, Alfalfa	Tons	7.20	7.00	7.20	1997, 2001, 2007	7,128,000	6,650,000	8,094,000	2002
Hay, Other	Tons	3.30	3.80	3.80	2008	1,914,000	2,166,000	2,166,000	2008
Oats	Tons	1.58	1.20	1.58	2007	39,600	24,000	121,312	1957
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	359.00	392.00	402.00	2003	13,721,000	14,803,000	35,166,000	1966
Rice	Cwt.	82.00	83.20	86.00	2004	43,684,000	43,030,000	50,759,000	2004
Sugar Beets	Cwt.	35.50	39.00	40.80	2004	1,388,000	991,000	9,031,000	1972
Potatoes, Sweet	Tons	320.00	295.00	320.00	2007	4,256,000	4,278,000	4,278,000	2008
Wheat, All	Tons	2.56	2.72	2.72	2008	883,950	1,508,250	3,166,350	1981

1/ Yield in pounds, production in bales.