



# California Field Crop Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Prospective Plantings .....	1
Farm Prices.....	2
Grain Stocks – Rice Stocks – Fall Potatoes .....	3
Spring Potatoes .....	4

## MARCH 1, 2009 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

California's March intentions estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,500 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 75.0 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2009. If realized, this would be 37 percent below the acreage seeded in 2008. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 120 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2009, 23 percent below the 155 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2009 are expected to total 8.81 million acres, down 7 percent from last year and the lowest since 1983.

**CORN:** **California** farmers were expected to plant 550 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, a decrease of 18 percent from last year. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 85.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, down 1 percent from last year.

**OATS:** On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 240 thousand acres of oats, 4 percent more than in 2008. **U.S.** growers intend to plant an estimated 3.40 million acres, up 6 percent from last year's planted area.

**WHEAT:** In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 620 thousand acres, 5 percent below the previous year. Another 150 thousand acres has been seeded to Durum wheat, 12 percent below the amount planted in 2008. At the **U.S.** level, 2009's all wheat planted area is expected to total 58.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 2008. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 42.9 million acres, 7 percent below last year, but up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 2.45 million acres, down 10 percent from the previous year.

**RICE:** **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 477 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 8 percent below the 519 thousand acres seeded in 2008. The expressed intentions were to seed 430 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 7.00 thousand to long grain and 40.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 3.18 million acres, up 6 percent from 2008.

**BARLEY:** On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 60.0 thousand acres to barley, 33 percent below the previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 3.95 million acres for 2009, down 7 percent from last year.

**SUGAR BEETS:** **California** producers had planted or intended to plant 25.0 thousand acres of sugar beets, as of March 1, down 4 percent from the 2008 crop year. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2009 crop year is expected to total 1.15 million acres, 6 percent higher than the 2008 planted acreage.

**DRY EDIBLE BEANS:** On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 60.0 thousand acres in **California**, 15 percent above last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.55 million acres of dry edible beans in 2009, up 3 percent from last year.

**ALL HAY:** **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.47 million acres as of March 1, down 3 percent from the 1.52 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 60.3 million acres of hay in 2009, up slightly from 2008.

**SWEET POTATOES:** **California** growers intended to plant 16.5 thousand acres in 2009, up 14 percent from 2008. **U.S.** growers intend to plant 102 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, down 1 percent from last year.

Crop	2007	2008	Indicated 2009	<u>2009</u> <u>2008</u>
	1,000 Acres			Percent
<b>Wheat, Winter 1/</b>				
California	550.0	650.0	620.0	95
U.S.	45,012.0	46,281.0	42,889.0	93
<b>Wheat, Durum</b>				
California 1/	90.0	170.0	150.0	88
U.S.	2,156.0	2,731.0	2,445.0	90
<b>Oats 1/</b>				
California	215.0	230.0	240.0	104
U.S.	3,763.0	3,217.0	3,400.0	106
<b>Barley 1/</b>				
California	85.0	90.0	60.0	67
U.S.	4,018.0	4,234.0	3,953.0	93
<b>Corn, All</b>				
California	650.0	670.0	550.0	82
U.S.	93,527.0	85,982.0	84,986.0	99
<b>Rice</b>				
California:				
All	534.0	519.0	477.0	92
Long	9.0	9.0	7.0	78
Medium	460.0	460.0	430.0	93
Short 2/	65.0	50.0	40.0	80
U.S.:				
All	2,761.0	2,995.0	3,183.0	106
Long	2,063.0	2,365.0	2,526.0	107
Medium	632.0	579.0	616.0	106
Short	66.0	51.0	41.0	80
<b>Cotton, Upland</b>				
California	195.0	120.0	75.0	63
U.S.	10,535.0	9,296.0	8,668.0	93
<b>Cotton, Amer.-Pima</b>				
California	260.0	155.0	120.0	77
U.S.	292.2	174.0	143.5	82
<b>Beans, Dry Edible 3/</b>				
California	59.0	52.0	60.0	115
U.S.	1,527.4	1,495.0	1,546.1	103
<b>Sugar Beets 4/</b>				
California 5/	40.0	26.1	25.0	96
U.S. 6/	1,268.8	1,090.8	1,151.6	106
<b>Hay, All 7/</b>				
California	1,570.0	1,520.0	1,470.0	97
U.S.	61,006.0	60,062.0	60,297.0	100
<b>Sweet Potatoes</b>				
California	13.5	14.5	16.5	114
U.S.	100.5	102.9	101.9	99

- 1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.
- 2/ Includes sweet rice.
- 3/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.
- 4/ Intended plantings in 2009 as indicated by reports from processors.
- 5/ 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.
- 6/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all states, except California.
- 7/ Area harvested.

**CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES – MARCH 2009**

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

**U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 126 percent, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from February. The Crop Index is up 1 point (0.7 percent), but the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for corn, lettuce, snap beans and tomatoes, and lower prices for broilers, soybeans, strawberries and celery. 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 strawberries, broilers, soybeans and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 20 points (14 percent) from March 2008. The Food Commodities Index, at 121, decreased 1 point (0.8 percent) from last month, and decreased 23 points (16 percent) from March 2008.

The March All Crops Index is 147, up 0.7 percent from February, but 12 percent below March 2008. Index increases for commercial vegetables, feed grains & hay, fruits & nuts, food grains and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decreases for oil-bearing crops and cotton.

The March Food Grains Index, at 204, is 0.5 percent above the previous month, but 33 percent below a year ago. The March all wheat price, at \$195.00 per ton, is up \$2.00 from February, but \$155.00 below March 2008.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 172, up 1.2 percent from last month, but 14 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$141.43 per ton, is up \$3.22 from last month, but \$26.43 below March 2008. The all hay price, at \$129.00 per ton, is down \$3.00 from February and \$4.00 below last March. Sorghum grain, at \$5.54 per cwt., is 49 cents above February, but \$3.50 below March last year.

The March Cotton Index, at 67, is down 2.9 percent from February and 36 percent below last year. The March price, at 40.9 cents per pound, is down 0.7 cent from the previous month, and 22.1 cents below last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 155, is up 1.3 percent from last month, and 5.4 percent above March 2008. The all potato price, at \$9.07 per cwt., is up 20 cents from February and 70 cents from last March. The all dry bean price, at \$28.80 per cwt., is down \$1.30 from the previous month and \$3.40 below March 2008.

**AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/**

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2008	February 2009	Mar 15, 2009	March 2008	February 2009	Mar 15, 2009
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	167.86	138.21	141.43
Wheat 2/	Tons	3/	3/	3/	350.00	193.00	195.00
Oats 2/	Tons	4/	4/	4/	214.38	172.50	131.88
Barley 2/	Tons	3/	3/	4/	174.17	205.83	200.83
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.04	5.05	5.54
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	13.60	15.60	15.50
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	3/	58.50	3/	32.20	30.10	28.80
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	11.00	16.50	11.30	8.37	8.87	9.07
Winter	Cwt.	18.10	24.30	16.60	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.15	8.60	8.60	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	204.00	142.00	143.00	133.00	132.00	129.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	212.00	145.00	144.00	144.00	143.00	137.00
Other Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	162.00	131.00	137.00	116.00	107.00	109.00
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs	3/	3/	3/	0.630	0.416	0.409
Cottonseed	Tons	---	228.00	---	---	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 of operations.

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		
	Mar 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Mar 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	928	797 1/	798	146	126 1/	126
All Crops	828	721 1/	730	167	146 1/	147
Food Grains	971	644 1/	647	306	203 1/	204
Feed Grains and Hay	713	605 1/	614	200	170 1/	172
Cotton	533	352 1/	346	104	69 1/	67
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	744	776 1/	787	147	153 1/	155
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	2,322	2,321	2,316	174	174	174
Parity Ratio 3/	40	34	34	84	72	72

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, 2009 California wheat stocks in all positions totaled 359 thousand tons, 93 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm corn stocks were 33 percent below March 2008. Barley off-farm stocks were 10 percent below March 2008. Oats totaled 3.92 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. U.S. wheat stocks in all positions were 46 percent above a year earlier as of March 1. Oat stocks were up 21 percent, and barley stocks were 16 percent above a year earlier. U.S. corn stocks in all positions totaled 195 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 5.85 million tons.

**GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS**

**(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)**

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 2008	Dec. 1, 2008 1/	Mar. 17, 2009
	Tons		
<b>ALL WHEAT</b>			
California			
On-Farm	9,000	51,000	12,000
Off-Farm 2/	177,300	456,390	347,370
Total	186,300	507,390	359,370
U.S. Total	21,278,100	42,671,220	31,097,160
<b>BARLEY</b>			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	13,104	23,256	11,784
U.S. Total	2,650,176	4,147,584	3,070,920
<b>OATS</b>			
California			
Off Farm 2/ 3/	5,168	4,432	3,920
U.S. Total	1,263,808	1,838,752	1,525,824
<b>CORN</b>			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	303,464	323,148	203,644
U.S. Total	192,044,216	282,171,792	194,835,116
<b>SORGHUM GRAIN</b>			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/ 4/	---	---	6,272
U.S. Total	5,205,424	8,737,288	5,846,204

1/ Revised.

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

3/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks are included in United States totals.

4/ California off-farm stocks and total stocks for March 2008 and December 2008 are included in United States totals.

**OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS**

Stocks of milled rice stored in California mills and warehouses on March 1, 2009 totaled 1.72 million cwt., 14 percent below the 2.01 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 48 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 4.73 million cwt., down 16 percent from a year ago.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 22.9 million cwt. on March 1, 2009. This was 17 percent below the 27.5 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. **Nationally**, rough rice in all positions on March 1 totaled 91.3 million cwt., down 13 percent from the total on March 1, 2008.

**ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS**

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1		Mar. 1	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Cwt.			
<b>ROUGH RICE</b>				
Long Grain	1/	560	69,207	64,226
Medium Grain	24,255	20,035	32,584	24,755
Short Grain	1/	2,345	2,755	2,347
<b>TOTAL ROUGH RICE</b>	27,523	22,940	104,546	91,328
<b>MILLED RICE</b>				
<b>Whole Kernels (Head Rice)</b>				
Long Grain	1/	1/	2,546	2,300
Medium Grain	1,587	754	1,735	978
Short Grain	1/	1/	69	69
Total	1,664	832	4,350	3,347
<b>Broken Kernels</b>				
Second Heads	1/	1/	852	794
Screenings	1/	1/	163	64
Brewers	1/	1/	239	527
Total	348	892	1,254	1,385
<b>TOTAL MILLED RICE</b>	2,012	1,724	5,604	4,732

1/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS**

Month	Season		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	35,672	38,189	35,848
March 1	24,129	27,523	22,940
June 1 a/	---	13,484	---
August 1	7,407	5,746	---
October 1 b/	2,995	1,837	---

a/ Estimates began in 2008.

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

**U. S. APRIL POTATO STOCKS DOWN 9 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

California fall potato stocks were estimated at 800 thousand cwt. as of April 1, 2009, 33 percent more than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 20 percent of the 2008 fall production, compared to 16 percent of the previous year.

The 13 major potato States held 115 million cwt. of potatoes in storage April 1, 2009, down 9 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 31 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below April 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.45 million cwt. on April 1, 2009, up 26 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and

Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 253 million cwt., was 7 percent below April 1, 2008. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 20.6 million cwt., was down 7 percent from the same date in 2008.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 134 million cwt. of potatoes this season, down 7 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 24.9 million cwt. of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year.

**FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS 1/**

State	Crop of 2007			Crop of 2008		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of
	1,000 Cwt.	Apr. 1, 2008	Production	1,000 Cwt.	Apr. 1, 2009	Production
			Percent			Percent
California	3,792	600	16	3,939	800	20
Colorado	20,981	7,500	36	21,338	8,700	41
Idaho	130,010	49,000	38	114,805	42,500	37
Maine	16,668	6,400	38	14,769	5,600	38
Michigan	14,700	2,100	14	14,875	1,900	13
Minnesota	21,560	6,200	29	20,400	6,500	32
Montana	3,696	2,100	57	3,465	2,100	61
Nebraska	8,217	2,000	24	8,342	2,300	28
New York	5,216	500	10	5,696	450	8
North Dakota	23,660	6,000	25	22,680	6,100	27
Oregon	20,293	9,200	45	18,676	7,400	40
Washington	100,800	27,500	27	93,000	23,700	25
Wisconsin	28,160	6,400	23	25,730	6,500	25
13-State Total	397,753	125,500	32	367,715	114,550	31
Klamath Basin 2/	---	1,150	---	---	1,450	---

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most seed to plant 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. Included in the 13 State total.

**POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION**

California's winter potato production for 2009 is estimated at 2.16 million cwt., down 15 percent from 2008. Harvested area in California is forecast at 9.00 thousand acres, down 18 percent from 2008. The average yield is estimated at 240 cwt. per acre, 10 cwt. higher than last year. The winter potato harvest was completed in March 2009. California's spring potato production forecast at 6.97 million cwt., up 1 percent from last year. Although average yield is forecast to decrease 35 cwt. from last year, the increase in planted acres was enough to increase total production. California's summer potato planted and harvested acreage for the 2008 crop year is estimated at 3.60 thousand acres.

Nationally, the spring production for 2009 is forecast at 20.8 million cwt., up 3 percent from 2008 and 5 percent above 2007. Area for harvest is forecast at 72.2 thousand acres, 5 percent more than 2008. The average yield of 288 cwt. per acre is down 5 cwt. from 2008. The final production estimate for the 2008 U.S. summer potato crop is 13.7 million cwt., up 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Crop Production 2008 Summary, but down 14 percent from the 2007 crop. Harvested area covered 44.8 thousand acres, up 2 percent from the 2008 preliminary estimate, but down 7 percent from 2007. The average yield of 306 cwt. per acre is down 3 cwt. from the 2008 preliminary estimate and 25 cwt. below the 2007 crop.

**POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION**

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
<b>WINTER</b>								
California	11.0	9.0	11.0	9.0	230	240	2,530	2,160
<b>SPRING</b>								
Arizona	3.5	4.1	3.5	4.1	300	280	1,050	
California	15.4	16.2	15.4	16.2	450	430	6,930	6,966
Florida	28.5	29.3	27.9	28.6	285	271	7,952	7,759
Hastings	17.4	17.8	17.0	17.4	285	285	4,845	4,959
Other	11.1	11.5	10.9	11.2	285	250	3,107	2,800
North Carolina	14.5	16.0	14.0	15.0	180	200	2,520	3,000
Texas	8.4	8.8	8.0	8.3	210	235	1,680	1,951
U.S. Total	70.3	74.4	68.8	72.2	293	288	20,132	20,824
<b>SUMMER 1/</b>								
California	3.6	----	3.6	----	360	----	1,296	----
Colorado	4.4	----	4.1	----	370	----	----	----
Texas	8.0	----	7.4	----	395	----	2,923	----
U.S. Total	47.0	----	44.8	----	306	----	13,694	----

1/ Revised data for 2008.