



California Field Crop Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WHEAT FORECAST

California farmers are expected to produce 672 thousand tons of winter wheat in 2008, 34 percent below last year. The 280 thousand acres expected to be harvested for grain are down 30 percent from last year. The yield is expected to average 2.40 tons per acre, 6 percent below last year.

California's Durum wheat production is forecast at 365 thousand tons, a decrease of 25 percent from 2008. Acreage expected for harvest, at 135 thousand, is 13 percent below last year's acreage. The expected yield of 2.70 tons per acre is down 14 percent from previous year.

United States winter wheat production is forecast to be 45.1 million tons, down 20 percent from 2008. Based on conditions as of May 1, the U.S. yield is expected to average 1.33 tons, 6 percent below May 2008. Harvested acreage was estimated at 34.0 million acres, down 14 percent from last year.

The U.S. estimate for Durum wheat production for states other than Arizona and California will not be available until July 10, 2009.

WHEAT FORECAST

Crop and Location	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Acres		Tons		1,000 Tons	
WINTER California	400	280	2.55	2.40	1,020	672
UNITED STATES	39,614	33,995	1.41	1.33	56,037	45,062
DURUM California	155	135	3.15	2.70	488	365
Arizona	149	125	2.94	3.15	438	394
UNITED STATES	2,584	a/	0.99	b/	2,546	b/

a/ Published June 30, 2009. b/ Published July 10, 2009.

2008 COTTON PRODUCTION

California farmers produced 367 thousand bales (480 lb. net weight) of Upland cotton in 2008, 44 percent less than the 650 thousand bales produced in 2007. Harvested acreage, at 117 thousand, was 40 percent below the 194 thousand harvested the previous year. The average yield was 1,506 pounds per acre, 102 pounds below 2007.

All cotton production in the United States is estimated at 12.8 million 480-pound bales, down 3 percent from the previous year's production. The U.S. all cotton yield averaged 813 pounds per acre, down 66 pounds from 2007.

The U.S. Upland cotton production is estimated at 12.4 million 480-pound bales, down 33 percent from the previous season. The U.S. yield for upland cotton is estimated at 803 pounds per acre, down 61 pounds from 2007.

American-Pima production in California totaled 403 thousand bales, down 49 percent from the 793 thousand bales produced the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 151 thousand, was 41 percent below the 257 thousand harvested in 2007. The average yield was 1,281 pounds per acre, 200 pounds below the previous year.

The U.S. American-Pima production totaled 831 thousand bales, down 49 percent from the previous season. The yield for American-Pima is 1,226 pounds per acre, down 193 pounds from last year.

COTTON AND COTTONSEED

Commodity Item	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES		
		2007	2008	2007	2008	
UPLAND COTTON:	Acres Planted 1/	1,000 Acres	195.0	120.0	10,535.0	9,297.0
	Acres Harvested 1/	1,000 Acres	194.0	117.0	10,201.0	7,400.0
	Yield 1/	Lbs./Acre	1,608.0	1,506.0	864.0	803.0
	Production 1/ 2/	1,000 Bales	650.0	367.0	18,355.1	12,384.5
	Price 3/	Cents/Lb.	72.2	56.2	59.3	55.2
	Value 3/ 4/	1,000 Dollars	225,264.0	99,811.0	5,248,964.0	3,296,132.0
AMERICAN-PIMA COTTON:	Acres Planted 1/	1,000 Acres	260.0	155.0	292.2	174.0
	Acres Harvested 1/	1,000 Acres	257.0	151.0	288.1	168.7
	Yield 1/	Lbs./Acre	1,481.0	1,281.0	1,419.0	1,226.0
	Production 1/ 2/	1,000 Bales	793.0	403.0	851.8	430.8
	Price 3/	Cents/Lb.	99.0	114.0	98.8	113.1
	Value 3/ 4/	1,000 Dollars	376,834.0	227,088.0	403,943.0	242,441.0
COTTONSEED:	Production 1/	1,000 Tons	546.0	280.0	6,588.7	4,300.3
	Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Tons	105.0	73.0	3,635.1	2,526.5
	Other Farm Disposition 5/	1,000 Tons	441.0	207.0	2,953.1	1,773.8
	Used for Planting 6/ 7/	1,000 Tons	2.5	1.8	63.0	59.0
	Price	Dollars/Ton	249.0	263.0	162.0	223.0
	Value	1,000 Dollars	135,954.0	73,660.0	1,069,849.0	992,425.0
	Value of Sales to Oil Mills	1,000 Dollars	26,145.0	19,199.0	588,886.2	563,409.5

1/ Revised 2008 data. 2/ Production ginned and to be ginned. 3/ For 2008 based on marketings and monthly prices received from August 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008. 4/ Value based on 480-lb. net weight bale. 5/ Includes planting seed, feed, exports, inter-farm sales, shrinkage, losses, and other uses. 6/ Revised 2007 data. 7/ Included in "other" farm disposition. Seed for planting is produced in crop year shown, but used in the following year.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - APRIL 2009

Mid-April prices received by California farmers were unchanged for all types of hay. Prices for all potatoes, winter potatoes, and fall potatoes were below the previous month's level. Mid-month prices for wheat, dry edible beans and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There were insufficient sales to establish a mid-month price for oats and barley. Prices were above a year earlier for all potatoes, fall potatoes and winter potatoes.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 131 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points (4.0 percent) from March. The Crop Index is up 9 points (6.2 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.8 percent). Producers received higher prices for lettuce, cattle, soybeans and onions, and lower prices for strawberries, snap beans, apples and cauliflower. 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, sweet corn, cattle and lettuce offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat and hogs.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 15 points (10 percent) from April 2008. The Food Commodities Index, at 129, increased 7 points (5.7 percent) from last month, but decreased 13 points (9.2 percent) from April 2008.

The April All Crops Index is 155, up 6.2 percent from March, but 8.3 percent below April 2008. Indexes for commercial vegetables, oil-bearing crops, fruits & nuts, potatoes & dry beans, cotton and food grains increased, while the feed grains & hay index was unchanged.

The April Food Grains Index, at 201, is 0.5 percent above the previous month, but 33 percent below a year ago. The April all wheat price, at \$189.67 per ton, is down 33 cents from March and \$147.00 below April 2008.

The April Feed Grains & Hay Index is 169, unchanged from last month, but 22 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$138.21 per ton, is up 36 cents from last month, but \$45.36 below April 2008. The all hay price, at \$129 per ton, is unchanged from March, but down \$18.00 from last April. Sorghum grain, at \$5.57 per cwt., is 23 cents above March but \$3.73 below April last year.

The April Cotton Index, at 71, is up 4.4 percent from March, but 34 percent below last year. The April price, at 42.8 cents per pound, is up 1.8 cents from the previous month, but 22.7 cents below last April.

The April Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 176, is up 9.3 percent from last month and 18 percent above April 2008. The all potato price, at \$10.42 per cwt., is up \$1.15 from March and \$1.97 from last April. The all dry bean price, at \$29.50 per cwt., is down \$3.00 from the previous month, and \$4.80 from April 2008.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 2008	March 2009	Apr 15, 2009	April 2008	March 2009	Apr 15, 2009
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	183.57	137.86	138.21
Wheat 2/	Tons	3/	3/	3/	336.67	190.00	189.67
Oats 2/	Tons	4/	4/	4/	216.88	173.13	135.00
Barley 2/	Tons	3/	4/	4/	190.00	203.33	199.17
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.30	5.34	5.57
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	14.60	15.30	15.70
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	3/	66.80	3/	34.30	32.50	29.50
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	13.60	21.60	18.60	8.45	9.27	10.42
Winter	Cwt.	20.70	34.70	32.70	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.20	13.90	13.30	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	210.00	132.00	132.00	147.00	129.00	129.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	221.00	129.00	129.00	161.00	137.00	133.00
Other Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	156.00	149.00	149.00	120.00	109.00	117.00
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs	3/	0.611	3/	0.655	0.410	0.428
Cottonseed	Tons	---	---	---	---	---	---

- 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		
	Apr 2008	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	Apr 2008	Mar 2009	Apr 2009
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	926	798	831	146	126	131
All Crops	840	726 1/	769	169	146 1/	155
Food Grains	954	633 1/	638	301	200 1/	201
Feed Grains and Hay	778	602 1/	603	218	169 1/	169
Cotton	554	347 1/	362	108	68 1/	71
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	756	814 1/	892	149	161 1/	176
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	2,386	2,364	2,366	179	178	178
Parity Ratio 3/	39	34	35	82	71	74

- 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 potato production is forecast at 7.53 million cwt., up 8 percent from the April 1 forecast, 9 percent above last year. Most growers reported a healthy crop and are expecting excellent yields. Reports indicated that the crop was in excellent condition and had rebounded well from inclement weather conditions.

Nationally, the 2009 spring production is forecast at 21.3 million cwt., up 2 percent from the April forecast and 6 percent higher than 2008. Area for harvest is forecast at 73,400 acres, up 2 percent from the previous forecast and an increase of 7 percent from 2008. The average yield of 291 cwt. per acre is up 3 cwt. from the April forecast, but is 2 cwt. lower than 2008.

SPRING POTATOES

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
	1,000 Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		
Arizona	3.5	4.0	300	280	1,120	1,050	1,120
California	15.4	17.5	450	430	6,123	6,930	7,525
Florida	27.9	28.6	285	274	7,807	7,952	7,846
Hastings	17.0	17.4	285	290	4,617	4,845	5,046
Other	10.9	11.2	285	250	3,190	3,107	2,800
North Carolina	14.0	15.0	180	195	2,700	2,520	2,925
Texas	8.0	8.3	210	230	2,070	1,680	1,909
UNITED STATES	68.8	73.4	293	291	19,820	20,132	21,325

MAY 1 FALL POTATO STOCKS

California's fall potato stocks were estimated at 500 thousand cwt. as of May 1, 2009, 9 percent more than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 13 percent of the 2008 fall production and 12 percent of the previous year.

The 13 major potato States held 75.4 million cwt. of potatoes in storage May 1, 2009, down 10 percent from last year and 5 percent below May 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 21 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 750 thousand cwt. on May 1, 2009, up 32 percent from last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 was at 292 million cwt., 7 percent below last year, and down 6 percent from 2007. Shrink and loss, at 22.3 million cwt., was down 7 percent from the same period in both 2007 and 2008.

Processors have used 149 million cwt. of the 2008 potato crop so far this season, down 10 percent from last year's season-to-date usage, and down 9 percent from 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 12 percent from a year ago, and Maine's total processing was 3 percent above 2008. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was 7 percent lower than last season. Dehydrating usage accounted for 28.3 million cwt. of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year, and 22.5 percent below the same period in 2007.

Idaho's, Oregon's and Washington's potato stocks were down 14, 17 and 13 percent, respectively, from May 1, 2008, while Colorado's stocks were up 18 percent from a year ago. Wisconsin's potato stocks were up 16 percent from last year; North Dakota's stocks were 17 percent below 2008 and potato stocks in Nebraska were up 10 percent from the previous season. Minnesota's stocks increased 2 percent from the same date in 2008, and Michigan's potato stocks were 12.5 percent lower than a year ago. Maine's potato stocks were 14 percent lower than last year.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MAY 1 STOCKS 1/

State	Crop of 2007			Crop of 2008		
	Production	Total Stocks May. 1, 2008	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks May. 1, 2009	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	3,792	460	12	3,939	500	13
Colorado	20,981	4,500	21	21,338	5,300	25
Idaho	130,010	35,000	27	114,805	30,000	26
Maine	16,668	4,300	26	14,769	3,700	25
Michigan	14,700	800	5	14,875	700	5
Minnesota	21,560	4,300	20	20,400	4,400	22
Montana 2/	3,696	---	---	3,465	---	---
Nebraska	8,217	1,000	12	8,342	1,100	13
New York 2/	5,216	---	---	5,696	---	---
North Dakota	23,660	4,200	18	22,680	3,500	15
Oregon	20,293	6,400	32	18,676	5,300	28
Washington	100,800	19,000	19	93,000	16,500	18
Wisconsin	28,160	3,100	11	25,730	3,600	14
Other States	---	900	---	---	800	---
13-State Total	397,753	83,960	21	367,715	75,400	21
Klamath Basin 3/	---	570	---	---	750	---

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/ Missing stocks combined into "Other States".

3/ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Included in the 13-state total.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of hay on California farms as of May 1, 2009 totaled 470 thousand tons. This is 20 percent of the December 1 stocks and was 88 percent above May 1, 2008.

United States May 1 stocks of hay on farms totaled 22.1 million tons of hay. This was 21 percent of the December 1 stocks, and was 2 percent above the previous year.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	2006	2007	2008	2007	2008	2009
1,000 Tons						
California	1,785	1,890	2,380	202	250	470
Arizona	350	260	475	35	36	50
Nevada	879	767	1,000	202	90	170
Oregon	1,840	1,700	1,561	180	150	270
Utah	1,410	1,130	1,300	185	215	285
UNITED STATES	96,400	104,089	103,658	14,990	21,585	22,065