



# California Field Crop Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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**CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - FEBRUARY 2012**

Mid-February prices received by California farmers increased from January for all hay and alfalfa hay. Prices for other hay, all potatoes and fall potatoes were unchanged from the previous month. Wheat, dry, edible beans, upland cotton lint and cottonseed were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There was insufficient data to establish a mid-February price for barley and spring potatoes. The price for all types of hay was above February 2011's level.

**U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 180 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 8 points (4.3 percent) from January. The Crop Index is down 8 points (3.8 percent), but the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.6 percent). Producers received lower prices for milk, strawberries, celery, and lettuce, and higher prices for soybeans, corn, broilers, and hogs. 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 movement of cattle, milk, broilers, and hogs offset the decreased marketing of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 9 points (5.3 percent) from February 2011. The Food Commodities Index, at 167, decreased 5 points

(2.9 percent) from last month, but increased 4 points (2.5 percent) from February 2011.

The All Crops February Index, at 204, decreased 3.8 percent from January, but is 2.0 percent above February 2011. Index decreases for commercial vegetables, food grains, and potatoes and dry beans more than offset the index increases for oilseeds, feed grains and hay, upland cotton, and fruits and nuts.

The February Food Grains Index, at 226, is 1.3 percent below the previous month and 2.6 percent below a year ago. The February all wheat price, at \$236.33 per ton, is up \$0.66 from January, but \$11.00 below February 2011.

The February Feed Grains & Hay Index, at 263, is up 0.8 percent from last month and 13 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$220.00 per ton, is up \$3.21 from last month and \$18.21 above February 2011. The all hay price, at \$176 per ton, increased \$4.00 from January and is \$60.00 higher than last February. Sorghum grain, at \$10.90 per cwt., is 10 cents above January, but unchanged from February last year.

The Upland Cotton February Index, at 152, is up 2.0 percent from January, but down 0.7 percent from last year. The February price, at 92.3 cents per pound, is up 2 cents from the previous month, but 0.6 cent below last February.

The Potatoes & Dry Beans February Index, at 172, is down 0.6 percent from last month, but 8.9 percent above February 2011. The all potato price, at \$9.22 per cwt., is 1 cent less than January and down 4 cents from last February. The all dry bean price, at \$46.20 per cwt., is up \$4.00 from the previous month and \$17.60 above February 2011.

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2011	January 2012	Feb 15, 2012	February 2011	January 2012	Feb 15, 2012
		Dollars					
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	201.79	216.79	220.00
Wheat 2/	Tons	215.67	3/	3/	247.33	234.67	236.33
Oats 2/	Tons	---	---	---	204.38	222.50	228.75
Barley 2/	Tons	4/	3/	4/	164.58	225.00	210.42
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	10.90	10.80	10.90
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	13.40	14.20	13.90
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	47.90	3/	3/	28.60	42.20	46.20
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	9.70	8.50	8.50	9.26	9.23	9.22
Spring 6/	Cwt.	4/	4/	4/	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	9.70	8.50	8.50	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	170.00	238.00	244.00	116.00	172.00	176.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	183.00	243.00	250.00	129.00	192.00	198.00
Other Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	109.00	215.00	215.00	95.80	127.00	130.00
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs	1.220	1.000	3/	0.929	0.903	0.923
Cottonseed	Tons	3/	340.00	3/	172.00	281.00	275.00

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. 6/ Beginning in 2010, winter and summer potatoes included in spring potatoes.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Feb 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Feb 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	1,083	1,195	1,141	171	188	180
All Crops	992	1,049	1,011	200	212	204
Food Grains	735	726	716	232	229	226
Feed Grains and Hay	828	932	939	232	261	263
Cotton	786	764	781	153	149	152
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	799	875	872	158	173	172
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	2,626	2,775	2,789	197	208	209
Parity Ratio 3/	41	43	41	87	90	86

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.

**CALIFORNIA FIELD CROPS YIELD AND PRODUCTION HISTORY**

Crop	Unit	Yield				Production			
		2010	2011	Record High	Record Year	2010	2011	Record High	Record Year
Barley	Tons	1.39	1.51	1.70	2002	104,400	113,400	1,997,000	1957
Beans, Dry	Cwt.	23.20	22.80	23.20	2010	1,462,000	1,026,000	5,216,000	1940
Corn for Grain	Tons	5.46	5.18	5.46	2008, 2010	982,800	777,000	1,428,000	1984
Cotton, Upland Lint	1/	1,483	1,432	1,646	2009	380,000	540,000	3,535,000	1981
Cottonseed	Tons	--	--	--	--	330,000	530,000	1,445,000	1981
Hay, All	Tons	5.61	5.69	5.85	2003	8,304,000	7,908,000	9,774,000	2002
Hay, Alfalfa	Tons	6.80	6.90	7.20	1997, 2001, 2007	6,324,000	6,072,000	8,004,000	2002
Hay, Other	Tons	3.60	3.60	3.80	2008	1,980,000	1,836,000	2,204,000	2008
Oats	Tons	1.52	1.60	1.68	2009	38,000	24,000	121,300	1957
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	411	411	411	2010, 2011	13,763,000	15,048,000	35,166,000	1966
Rice	Cwt.	80.2	83.5	86.0	2004, 2009	44,326,000	48,402,000	50,759,000	2004
Sugar Beets	Tons	44.6	43.0	44.6	2010	1,137,000	1,079,000	9,031,000	1972
Potatoes, Sweet	Tons	355	320	355	2010	6,390,000	5,824,000	6,390,000	2010
Wheat, All	Tons	2.59	2.71	2.71	2008, 2011	1,177,500	1,447,050	2,959,800	1981

1/ Yield in pounds, production in bales.

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