



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, 2012 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

California's March intentions estimates were based on a survey of more than 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 150 thousand acres of Upland cotton in 2011, down 18 percent from the acreage seeded in 2011. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 250 thousand acres of American Pima cotton in 2012, down 8 percent from last year. **Nationally**, growers intend to plant 13.2 million acres of all cotton in 2012, down 11 percent from last year. Lower cotton prices and strong competition from other crops are the main factors for the decrease in cotton acreage.

CORN: California farmers were expecting to plant 640 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2012, a 2 percent increase from last year. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 95.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2012, up 4 percent from last year and 9 percent higher than in 2010. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 1937 when an estimated 97.2 million acres were planted.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in California had planted or were expecting to plant 220 thousand acres of oats, 10 percent more than in 2011. **Nationally**, area seeded to oats for the 2012 crop year is expected to total 2.86 million acres, up 15 percent from the record low planted last year. If realized, this will still be the second lowest United States total on record.

WHEAT: In California, acreage seeded to Winter wheat is forecast at 670 thousand acres, unchanged from last year. Another 140 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 17 percent above the amount planted in 2011. At the **U.S.** level, the 2012 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 41.7 million acres, up 3 percent from 2011. Area seeded to Durum wheat is estimated at 2.22 million acres, up 62 percent from 2011.

RICE: California farmers intended to seed rice on 544 thousand acres, 7 percent below the acreage seeded in 2011. The expressed intentions were to seed 490 thousand acres of medium grain varieties, 8 percent below last year. The long grain rice acreage forecast is 4.0 thousand acres, down 43 percent from last season. The short grain rice planted acreage forecast is 50.0 thousand acres, up 16 percent from last season. Short grain and all rice forecasts include the intended plantings of sweet rice. **Nationally**, area planted to rice in 2012 is expected to total 2.56 million acres, down 5 percent from 2011 and the lowest planted acreage since 1987. Higher prices for competing commodities and poor export demand contributed to the expected decline in rice acres compared with last year. While long and short grain acres are expected to be up slightly, medium grain acres are down 24 percent from last year.

BARLEY: On March 1, California farmers had planted or intended to plant 90.0 thousand acres of barley, down 10 percent from the previous year. **U.S.** producers intend to seed 3.33 million acres of barley for the 2012 crop year, up 30 percent from last year's record low. If realized, this will be the third smallest seeded area on record, despite the large increase from last year.

SUGAR BEETS: California producers had planted or intended to plant 25.0 thousand acres of sugar beets, down less than 1 percent from the acreage seeded in 2011. **Nationally**, area planted to sugar beets for the 2012 crop year is expected to total 1.24 million acres, up 1 percent from the 1.23 million acres planted in 2011.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 51.0 thousand acres in California, up 12 percent from last year. **Nationally**, growers intend to plant 1.67 million acres in 2012, up 38 percent from last year, but 13 percent below 2010.

ALL HAY: California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.50 million acres, up 8 percent from last year. **U.S.** producers intend to harvest 57.3 million acres of all hay in 2012, up 3 percent from last year's record low. If realized, this will be the second smallest harvested area on record.

SWEET POTATOES: California farmers were expecting to plant 19.0 thousand acres of sweet potatoes in 2012, up 3 percent from last year. **Nationally**, planted area of sweet potatoes is expected to total 133,400 acres for the 2012 season, down 1 percent from last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	2010	2011	Indicated 2012	2012 2011
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat, Winter 1/				
California	660	670	670	100
U.S.	37,335	40,646	41,709	103
Wheat, Durum 2/				
California 3/	105	120	140	117
U.S.	2,560	1,369	2,223	162
Oats 1/ 2/				
California	220	200	220	110
U.S.	3,138	2,496	2,863	115
Barley 1/ 2/				
California	110	100	90	90
U.S.	2,872	2,559	3,333	130
Corn, All 2/				
California	610	630	640	102
U.S.	88,192	91,921	95,864	104
Rice 2/				
California:				
All	558	585	544	93
Long	6	7	4	57
Medium	510	535	490	92
Short 4/	42	43	50	116
U.S.:				
All	3,636	2,689	2,561	95
Long	2,841	1,794	1,864	104
Medium	752	851	646	76
Short	43	44	51	116
Cotton, Upland 2/				
California	124.0	182.0	150.0	82
U.S.	10,770.0	14,426.0	12,885.0	89
Cotton, Amer.-Pima 2/				
California	182.0	273.0	250.0	92
U.S.	204.2	306.4	270.0	88
Beans, Dry Edible 2/ 5/				
California	63.5	45.5	51.0	112
U.S.	1,911.4	1,205.9	1,669.9	138
Sugar Beets 6/				
California 7/	25.6	25.1	25.0	100
U.S. 8/	1,171.9	1,232.8	1,241.3	101
Hay, All 2/ 9/				
California	1,480	1,390	1,500	108
U.S.	59,872	55,633	57,348	103
Sweet Potatoes 2/				
California	18.0	18.5	19.0	103
U.S.	119.8	134.2	133.4	99

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Intended plantings in 2012 as indicated by reports from farmers.

3/ Includes area planted in preceding fall in California.

4/ Includes sweet rice.

5/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

6/ Intended plantings in 2012 as indicated by reports from processors.

7/ 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.

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

9/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES – MARCH 2012

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for all potatoes, fall potatoes, and other hay. Prices decreased for alfalfa hay and all hay. Mid-month prices for wheat, barley, and upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There was insufficient data to publish a price for dry edible beans, and spring potatoes.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 186 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 5 points (2.8 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (3.9 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (1.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for soybeans, corn, broilers, and cattle and lower prices for milk, strawberries, snap beans, and lettuce. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly movement of soybeans, strawberries, broilers, and milk offset decreased marketings of corn, cattle, cotton, and wheat.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 13 points (7.5 percent) from March 2011. The Food Commodities Index, at 173, increased 5 points (3.0 percent) from last month and March 2011.

The March All Crops Index, at 213, increased 3.9 percent from February and is 7.6 percent above March 2011. The index groups with the largest contributions to the increase were feed grains & hay, oilseeds, commercial vegetables, and fruits & nuts.

The March Food Grains Index, at 230, is 1.8 percent above the previous month but 1.3 percent below a year ago. The price of March all wheat, at \$241.33 per ton, is up \$4.66 from February, but \$10.34 below March 2011.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index, at 276, increased 3.0 percent from last month and is 20 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$231.43 per ton, is up \$7.14 from last month and \$33.93 above March 2011. The all hay price, at \$181 per ton, is \$5.00 higher than February and \$55.00 higher than March 2011. Sorghum grain, at \$11.30 per cwt., increased 50 cents from February and 70 cents from March last year.

The March Upland Cotton Index, at 154, is up 1.3 percent from February and 11 percent above last year. The March price, at 93.6 cents per pound, is up 1.2 cents from the previous month and 9.2 cents above last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 180, is up 3.4 percent from last month, but 0.6 percent below March 2011. The all potato price, at \$9.74 per cwt., is up 43 cents from February, but down \$1.00 from last March. The all dry bean price, at \$49.00 per cwt., is up \$2.30 from the previous month and \$19.10 above March 2011.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS a/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2011	February 2012	Mar 15, 2012	March 2011	February 2012	Mar 15, 2012
Dollars							
Corn b/	Tons	---	---	---	197.50	224.29	231.43
Wheat b/	Tons	216.00	c/	c/	251.67	236.67	241.33
Oats b/	Tons	---	---	---	205.00	216.25	223.75
Barley b/	Tons	c/	d/	c/	178.75	224.58	223.75
Sorghum Grain b/	Cwt.	---	---	---	10.60	10.80	11.30
Rice b/	Cwt.	---	---	---	13.00	13.80	14.10
Dry Edible Beans b/	Cwt.	46.90	50.30	d/	29.90	46.70	49.00
All Potatoes e/	Cwt.	10.60	8.50	8.60	10.74	9.31	9.74
Spring	Cwt.	d/	d/	d/	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	10.60	8.50	8.60	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled b/	Tons	224.00	246.00	242.00	126.00	176.00	181.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled b/	Tons	240.00	250.00	245.00	142.00	198.00	201.00
Other Hay, Baled b/	Tons	116.00	225.00	226.00	99.50	130.00	139.00
Upland Cotton Lint b/	Lbs	1.850	c/	c/	0.844	0.924	0.936
Cottonseed	Tons	---	c/	---	---	275.00	---

- a/ 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.
- b/ Previous month revised to monthly average.
- c/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure of operations.
- d/ Insufficient data to establish a price.
- e/ Monthly average.

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

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Mar 2011	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Mar 2011	Feb 2012	Mar 2012
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	1,100	1,148	1,179	173	181	186
All Crops	979	1,018	1,054	198	205	213
Food Grains	739	715	730	233	226	230
Feed Grains and Hay	820	955	984	230	268	276
Cotton	714	782	792	139	152	154
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	915	881	914	181	174	180
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 1/	2,674	2,785	2,793	201	209	210
Parity Ratio 2/	41	41	42	86	87	89

- 1/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.
- 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, 2012 California wheat stocks in all positions totaled 235 thousand tons, 34 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm corn stocks were 19 percent above March 2011. Barley off-farm stocks were 2 percent above March 2011. Oats totaled 2.46 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. U.S. wheat stocks in all positions were 16 percent below a year earlier as of March 1. Barley and oat stocks were down 32 percent and 16 percent, respectively. U.S. corn stocks in all positions totaled 168 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 3.02 million tons.

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

Grain and Position	March 1, 2011	Dec. 1, 2011	March 1, 2012
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	6,000	24,000	18,000
Off-Farm 1/	349,020	409,260	216,780
Total	355,020	433,260	234,780
U.S. Total	42,759,060	49,881,540	36,019,650
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	16,512	20,976	16,920
U.S. Total	3,314,976	3,334,584	2,248,488
OATS			
California			
Off Farm 1/ 2/	3,072	3,520	2,464
U.S. Total	1,380,976	1,266,160	1,160,608
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	226,800	386,512	270,704
U.S. Total	182,650,384	270,129,048	168,259,280
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	5,852	6,804	4,620
U.S. Total	4,789,316	4,226,628	3,022,180

- 1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.
2/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks are included in United States totals.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in California mills and warehouses on March 1, 2012 totaled 1.89 million cwt. This was 20 percent below the 2.37 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 43 percent of the total milled rice in storage. Nationally, milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 4.49 million cwt., down 28 percent from a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 2.84 million cwt. of whole kernel rice and 1.65 million cwt. of second heads, screenings, and brewers rice.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 26.6 million cwt. on March 1, 2012. This was 2 percent below the 27.2 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Nationally, rough rice in all positions on March 1 totaled 106 million cwt., down 12 percent from the total on March 1, 2011.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	March 1		March 1	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE				
Long Grain	a/	366	86,864	68,469
Medium Grain	24,783	24,163	31,548	35,978
Short Grain	a/	2,042	2,203	2,044
TOTAL ROUGH RICE	27,228	26,571	120,615	106,491
MILLED RICE				
Whole Kernels (Head Rice)				
Long Grain	a/	a/	3,038	1,856
Medium Grain	1,595	757	1,803	935
Short Grain	a/	a/	62	49
Total	1,658	807	4,903	2,840
Broken Kernels				
Second Heads	358	674	634	1,021
Screenings b/	---	---	91	82
Brewers	352	410	647	551
Total	710	1,084	1,372	1,654
TOTAL MILLED RICE	2,368	1,891	6,275	4,494

- a/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
b/ Screenings included with second heads in California.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	41,402	38,863	39,767
March 1	28,755	27,228	26,571
June 1	15,098	12,924	---
August 1	7,920	6,622	---
October 1	4,251	2,063	---

POTATO STOCKS

California fall potato stocks were estimated at 850 thousand cwt. as of April 1, 2012, 42 percent more than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 21 percent of the 2011 fall production, compared to 21 percent of the previous year.

The 13 major potato States held 116 million cwt. of potatoes in storage April 1, 2012, up 4 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 30 percent of the 2011 fall storage States' production, one percentage point below April 1, 2011. Potato disappearance, at 264 million cwt., was 7 percent above April 1, 2011. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.8 million cwt., was up 12 percent from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States have used 142 million cwt. of potatoes this season, up 11 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 28.1 million cwt. of the total processing, up 45 percent from last year.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS 1/

State	Crop of 2010			Crop of 2011		
	Production	Total Stocks Apr. 1, 2010	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Apr. 1, 2011	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	2,828	600	21	4,128	850	21
Colorado	21,528	7,200	33	21,291	7,700	36
Idaho	112,970	41,000	36	127,070	44,000	35
Maine	15,892	5,900	37	14,310	4,400	31
Michigan	15,660	2,300	15	15,180	1,600	11
Minnesota	17,010	5,000	29	16,685	5,000	30
Montana	3,673	2,300	63	3,795	2,100	55
Nebraska	7,719	2,100	27	7,800	2,100	27
New York	5,120	600	12	4,050	500	12
North Dakota	22,000	5,900	27	18,865	5,600	30
Oregon	20,058	7,700	38	23,342	8,000	34
Washington	88,440	25,200	28	98,400	29,000	29
Wisconsin	24,293	5,200	21	25,000	5,000	20
13-State Total	357,191	111,000	31	379,916	115,850	30
Klamath Basin 2/	---	1,200	---	---	1,800	---

- 1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2011 totaled 23.6 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 spring potato production 2012 forecast is at 11.6 million cwt., up 6 percent from last year.

Nationally, the spring potato production for 2012 is forecast at 27.2 million cwt., up 5 percent from 2011. Area for harvest is forecast at 95.6 thousand acres, 4 percent more than 2011. The average yield of 285 cwt. per acre is 2 percent more than 2011.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Acres		Cwt.				1,000 Cwt.	
SPRING								
Arizona	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.5	280	300	1,064	1,050
California	28.1	30.0	28.0	30.0	390	385	10,920	11,550
Florida	36.4	36.9	35.6	36.3	256	260	9,112	9,438
Hastings	23.4	23.6	23.1	23.3	270	260	6,237	6,058
Other	13.0	13.3	12.5	13.0	230	260	2,875	3,380
North Carolina	17.0	18.0	16.5	17.0	170	190	2,805	3,230
Texas	8.0	9.8	7.6	8.8	220	220	1,672	1,936
U.S. Total	93.3	98.2	91.5	95.6	279	285	25,573	27,204
SUMMER								
Colorado	4.5	----	4.4	----	370	----	1,628	----
Texas	11.1	----	10.9	----	350	----	3,815	----
U.S. Total	48.2	----	46.0	----	282	----	12,960	----

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