



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Media Contact: Kelly Krug, 1-800-851-1127 · September 12, 2011

CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

SACRAMENTO - The USDA-NASS, California Field Office today released the crop production forecast for September. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of August and the first week of September, included the following commodities:

Oranges, Navel – California's initial 2011-12 Navel orange forecast is 88.0 million 40.0-pound cartons; this was down 8 percent from the previous year. Of the total forecast, 85.0 million cartons are estimated to be in the Central Valley. The forecast is based on the Navel Orange Objective Measurement Survey conducted in the Central Valley. Survey data indicated an average fruit set of 318 oranges per tree, with a diameter of 2.27 inches as of September 1.

Walnuts – The 2011 California walnut production is forecast at 485 thousand tons, down 4 percent from last year's record crop of 503 thousand tons. Bearing acreage is unchanged from 2010 at 227 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 2.14 tons per acre. The forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement Survey conducted during August. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,388 per tree, down 18 percent from 2010's average of 1,690. The San Joaquin Valley set is 1,119, down 15 percent from last year, and the Sacramento Valley set is 1,606, down 22 percent from last year. The percentage of sound kernels in-shell was 98.7 percent statewide.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 560 thousand bales, up 47 percent from the 2010 crop, but down 10 percent from the August 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 181 thousand acres, down 4 percent from the previous forecast. Yield is forecast at 1,485 pounds per acre, down 6 percent from last month. The forecast for American Pima cotton production, carried forward from last month at 685 thousand bales, is up 48 percent from the 2010 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 259 thousand acres. Yield is forecast at 1,269 pounds per acre.

Rice - All rice production in California for 2011 is forecast at 49.4 million cwt., up 11 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 8,400 pounds per acre, up from both last month and year at 1 and 5 percent, respectively. Planted and harvested acreages are estimated at 591 thousand and 588 thousand acres, respectively. As of September 1, approximately two-thirds of the rice acres had headed.

Corn - Corn for grain production in California for 2011 is forecast at 777 thousand tons, down 21 percent from last year's crop and 3 percent from the August forecast. With harvested acreage estimated at 150 thousand acres, the yield is 5.18 tons per acre. Compared with the 2010 crop year, harvested acreage is down 17 percent, and yield is down 5 percent.

(continued on next page)

Sugarbeets - The 2011 California sugarbeet production forecast is 1.08 million tons, unchanged from the August forecast and up 7 percent from last season. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month with 25.0 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 43.0 tons per acre.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these estimates considerably. The next production forecast will be issued October 12, 2011.

###