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CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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

Wheat - The 2013 Winter wheat production forecast is 816 thousand tons, up 3.2 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 320 thousand, resulting in a yield of 2.6 tons per acre. The wheat growing season in California began with a lack of significant precipitation. This held true until April, when much needed precipitation was received. To compensate, some growers began their irrigation schedules earlier than usual. Dryland wheat was impacted the most by the lack of moisture, with stunting and maturation problems reported. The 2013 Durum wheat production forecast is 268 thousand tons, down 37 percent from 2012 primarily due to fewer acres planted by growers. Harvested acres are estimated at 85 thousand, with a yield of 3.2 tons per acre. Good quality and few disease issues were reported for California's 2013 Durum wheat crop. The dry beginning to the year had little impact on the Durum wheat crop since irrigation is the norm. The Durum wheat harvest was expected to begin in Southern California by mid-May.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. The next production forecast will be issued June 12, 2013.

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