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Pacific Region Farm News



Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Nevada and Hawaii Departments of Agriculture
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PACIFIC REGIONAL CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 220 thousand bales, a decrease of 34 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 64 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1,650 pounds per acre. California's American Pima cotton production forecast is 500 thousand bales, down 18 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 149 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1,611 pounds per acre.

Apples - California's 2014 apple crop forecast is 130 thousand tons, down 4 percent from 2013.

Grapes - California's wine type grape production is forecast at 3.90 million tons, down 8 percent from 2013 and represents 55 percent of California's total grape crop. California's raisin type grape production is forecast at 1.95 million tons, down 13 percent from last year and represents 28 percent of California's total grape crop. California's table type grape production is forecast at 1.20 million tons, down 2 percent from the previous year. The 2014 California grape crop was reported to be earlier than last year in crop development. Bunch counts were reported to be down from last year's counts for Wine grapes and Thompsons. Drought was a concern for many grape growers. Hail during bloom negatively affected some vineyards.

Pears - The forecast of the 2014 Bartlett pear crop in California is 155 thousand tons, a decrease of 12 percent from last year. The 2014 other pear forecast for California is 38 thousand tons, down 12 percent from 2013. In California, harvest began in the Sacramento-San Joaquin region the first week of July, about the same time as a year ago. Generally fair weather has been experienced for harvesting and fruit quality was reported to be mostly fair to good. Sizing was reported to be good for early season pears.

Peaches - The forecast of the 2014 peach crop in California is 625 thousand tons, a decrease of 4 percent from last year. The 2014 Clingstone peach forecast for California is 325 thousand tons, down 12 percent from 2013. The 2014 Freestone peach forecast for California is 300 thousand tons, up 7 percent from 2013. In California, Clingstone full bloom occurred in early-March, slightly earlier than last year. Growers completed spraying and pruning by the end of March. The drought situation in California remained a concern for peach growers. However, some growers reported they expected to utilize wells to pump groundwater in order to offset the impact. Freestone full bloom occurred approximately a week ahead of schedule and lasted longer than usual, with fruit set reported as variable.

Other Crops - The rice production forecast is 41.2 million cwt., down 13 percent from 2013; alfalfa hay is 6.51 million tons, up 6 percent; other hay is 1.36 million tons, down 26 percent; corn for grain is 524 thousand tons, down 47 percent; sugar beets are 1.10 million tons, up 1 percent; dry beans are 1.02 million cwt., down 11 percent; oats are 18.0 thousand tons, 30 percent below 2013 and a 133 year low. Barley is 26.4 thousand tons, down 63 percent from 2013.

Nevada alfalfa hay production is forecast at 1.00 million tons, an increase of 6 percent from a year ago.

Hawaii sugarcane forecast is 1.43 million tons, a 2 percent increase from 2013. Hawaii coffee production is 7.70 million pounds, up 10 percent from a year ago. Growers reported an increase in hand-picked beans as well as an increase in harvested acreage.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these forecasts considerably. The next production forecast will be issued September 11, 2014.

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