



# California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

**SACRAMENTO** --The USDA-NASS California Field Office today released the crop production forecasts that reflect conditions as of January 1. The latest survey, conducted during the last week of December 2008 and the first week of January 2009, included the following commodities:

**Cotton** - American Pima production is estimated at 415 thousand bales, up 4 percent from the December 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 151 thousand acres. The resulting yield is 1,319 pounds per acre. Upland production is estimated at 370 thousand bales, unchanged from the December 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 117 thousand acres. The yield calculates to 1,518 pounds per acre. Cotton plowdown is complete in compliance with cotton bollworm control regulations. Some gins are still ginning the 2008 crop.

**Oranges** - The 2008 - 2009 California Navel orange forecast is 69.0 million cartons, up 8 percent from the October forecast and down 29 percent from last season's crop. Navel harvest has been running a bit behind schedule for this time of year. Picking has slowed due to fog, rain and cold temperatures. Coloring has also been an issue this year with some groves slow to achieve good color. Fruit have generally been of good quality. The 2008-2009 Valencia orange forecast is 24.0 million cartons, unchanged from the October forecast, but down 25 percent from last season's crop.

**Lemons** - The 2008 - 2009 California lemon forecast is 38.0 million cartons, 12 percent above last season's final production and unchanged from the October forecast. With higher production this season, supplies of California lemons have been about normal. The quality of fruit has been good, though some fruit drop has occurred in the desert.

**Tangerines** - The 2008 - 2009 California tangerine forecast (including mandarins and tangelos) is 14.0 million cartons. Production is 23 percent above last season's crop and up 11 percent from the October forecast. Satsuma, Clementine and Fairchild harvests are well underway as new season picking continues. The fruit is of excellent quality. Picking has slowed at times due to cold, wet weather. W. Murcott, Dancy, Minneola and Royal Mandarin harvests should begin soon.

**Grapefruit** - The 2008 - 2009 California grapefruit forecast is 9.0 million cartons, 18 percent below the October forecast and down 21 percent from last season's crop. Chandler variety pummelos, and Melo Gold and Cocktail grapefruit were harvested in the Central Valley. Sizes are reported to be smaller than normal.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. The next production forecast will be issued February 10, 2009.

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