



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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CALIFORNIA PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS REPORT

SACRAMENTO -- The USDA-NASS, California Field Office today released the forecasts of field crop plantings for 2009. These forecasts, of acreage planted and to be planted, are based on a survey of more than 2,500 California farmers, conducted the first two weeks of March. The impact of weather and/or market conditions since the survey is not reflected in this report.

Barley - California farmers had planted or intended to plant 60.0 thousand acres to barley, down 33 percent from the previous year.

Beans, Dry Edible - Seeding of dry edible beans were planned for 60.0 thousand acres in California, up 15 percent from last year.

Corn - California farmers were expecting to plant 550 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, an 18 percent decrease from last year.

Cotton - California farmers were intending to plant 75.0 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2009, down 37 percent from the acreage seeded in 2008, and the lowest planted acreage since statistics for Upland cotton began in 1941. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 120 thousand acres to American Pima cotton in 2009, down 23 percent from last year.

Hay, All - California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.47 million acres, down 3 percent from last year.

Oats - Farmers in California had planted or were expecting to plant 240 thousand acres of oats, 4 percent more than in 2008.

Rice - California farmers intended to seed rice on 477 thousand acres, 8 percent below the acreage seeded in 2008. The expressed intentions were to seed 430 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 7 percent below last year. The long grain rice acreage forecast is 7.00 thousand acres, 22 percent below last season. The short grain rice planted acreage forecast is 40.0 thousand acres, down 20 percent from last season. Short grain and all rice forecasts include the intended plantings of sweet rice.

Sugar Beets - California producers had planted or intended to plant 25.0 thousand acres of sugar beets, down 4 percent from the acreage seeded in 2008.

Sweet Potatoes - California farmers were expecting to plant 16.5 thousand acres of sweet potatoes in 2009, up 14 percent from last year.

Wheat - Acreage seeded to Winter wheat is estimated at 620 thousand acres, 5 percent below last year. Another 150 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 12 percent below the amount planted in 2008.

The next production forecast will be issued April 9, 2009.

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