



# 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 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 2009-10 Navel orange forecast is 80.0 million 37.5-pound cartons, 16 percent above last season's crop of 69.0 million cartons. Of the total forecast, 78.0 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 294 oranges per tree, with a September 1 diameter of 2.34 inches.

**Walnuts** – The 2009 California walnut production is forecast at 415 thousand tons, down 5 percent from 436 thousand tons in 2008. Bearing acreage is estimated at 223 thousand, resulting in a yield of 1.86 tons per acre. The forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement Survey conducted during August. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,523 per tree, up 8 percent from 2008's average of 1,416. The San Joaquin Valley set is 1,250, down 2 percent from last year, and the Sacramento Valley set is 1,758, up 10 percent from last year. The percentage of sound kernels in-shell was 97.9 percent statewide.

**Cotton - Upland** cotton production in California is forecast at 218 thousand bales, down 41 percent from the 2008 crop, but 5 percent above the August 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 70 thousand, up 9 percent from the previous forecast. Yield is forecast at 1,495 pounds per acre, down 4 percent from last month. The forecast for American Pima cotton production, carried forward from last month, is 330 thousand bales, down 18 percent from the 2008 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 127 thousand. Yield is forecast at 1,247 pounds per acre.

**Rice** - All rice production in California for 2009 is forecast at 45.6 million cwt., up 6 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 8,300 pounds per acre, up 1 percent from the August 1 forecast. Planted and harvested acreages are estimated at 552 thousand and 549 thousand acres, respectively. Rice has been heading and filling across the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. Harvest is expected to begin during the middle of September.

**Corn** - Corn for grain production in California for 2009 is forecast at 630 thousand tons, down 32 percent from last year's crop, unchanged from the August forecast. With harvested acreage estimated at 125 thousand acres, the yield is 5.04 tons per acre. Compared to the 2008 crop year, harvested acreage is down 26 percent, but yield is down 8 percent.

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**Sugar Beets** - The 2009 California sugar beet production forecast is 984 thousand tons, down 2 percent from the August forecast and from last season. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month with 24.6 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 40.0 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 9, 2009.

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