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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 November. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of October and the first week of November, included the following commodities:

Corn - Corn for grain production is expected to total 630 thousand tons, down 32 percent from last year. Harvested acreage of 125 thousand is down 26 percent, and the yield forecast of 5.04 tons per acre is down 8 percent from the previous year.

Cotton - American Pima cotton production in California is forecast at 330 thousand bales, unchanged from last month's forecast, but down 18 percent from the 2008 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 127 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1,247 pounds per acre. Upland cotton is forecast at 218 thousand bales, unchanged from last month's forecast, but down 41 percent from last year. With harvested acreage of 70.0 thousand, the resulting yield is 1,495 pounds per acre. As of November 1st, Cotton harvest was nearly complete in Kern and Fresno counties, while Tulare and Merced counties advanced towards completion under mostly dry weather conditions.

Rice - All rice production in California is forecast at 46.7 million cwt. for 2009, up 8 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 8,500 pounds per acre, and the harvested acreage is estimated at 549 thousand. March was an unseasonably dry month and field preparation started early. Rice planting commenced in early April with most planting completed by June 1. Most strands of rice were good and healthy in all California rice belt growing regions. Weed and disease control has been manageable. Harvest began during the middle of September and is ongoing.

Sugar Beets - California sugar beet production is forecast at 984 thousand tons, down 2 percent from the 2008 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 24.6 thousand, and the yield forecast is 40.0 tons per acre.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late fall harvests may change these forecasts. The next production forecast will be issued December 10, 2009.

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