



# 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 2010. 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 100 thousand acres to barley, up 11 percent from the previous year.

**Beans, Dry Edible** - Seeding of dry edible beans were planned for 63.5 thousand acres in California, down 7 percent from last year.

**Corn** - California farmers were expecting to plant 650 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, an 18 percent increase from last year.

**Cotton** - California farmers were intending to plant 100 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2010, up 41 percent from the acreage seeded in 2009. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 165 thousand acres to American Pima cotton in 2010, up 39 percent from last year.

**Hay, All** - California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.50 million acres, down 1 percent from last year.

**Oats** - Farmers in California had planted or were expecting to plant 240 thousand acres of oats, 4 percent less than in 2009.

**Rice** - California farmers intended to seed rice on 600 thousand acres, 7 percent above the acreage seeded in 2009. The expressed intentions were to seed 540 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 7 percent above last year. The long grain rice acreage forecast is 10.0 thousand acres, twice the amount planted last season. The short grain rice planted acreage forecast is 50.0 thousand acres, down 2 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 less than 1 percent from the acreage seeded in 2009.

**Sunflower** – California farmers were expecting to plant 30.0 thousand acres of sunflowers for oil, down 29 percent from last year, and 13.0 thousand acres of non-oil sunflowers, up 63 percent from 2009.

**Sweet Potatoes** - California farmers were expecting to plant 18.5 thousand acres of sweet potatoes in 2010, up 6 percent from last year.

**Wheat** - Acreage seeded to Winter wheat is estimated at 600 thousand acres, 2 percent above last year. Another 115 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 36 percent below the amount planted in 2009.

The next production forecast will be issued April 8, 2010.

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