



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 2010-11 Navel orange forecast is 93.0 million 40.0-pound cartons. Of the total forecast, 90.0 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 418 oranges per tree, with a September 1 diameter of 2.14 inches.

Walnuts – The 2010 California walnut production is forecast at a record 510 thousand tons, up 17 percent from 437 thousand tons in 2009. Bearing acreage is estimated at 227 thousand, resulting in a yield of 2.25 tons per acre. The forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement Survey conducted during August. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,690 per tree, up 11 percent from 2009's average of 1,523. The San Joaquin Valley set is 1,313, up 5 percent from last year, and the Sacramento Valley set is 2,047, up 16 percent from last year. The percentage of sound kernels in-shell was 97.8 percent statewide.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 390 thousand bales, up 62.5 percent from the 2009 crop, and up 1 percent above the August 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is estimated at 123 thousand, down 1 percent from the previous forecast. Yield is forecast at 1,522 pounds per acre, up 2 percent from last month. The forecast for American Pima cotton production, carried forward from last month, is 450 thousand bales, up 25 percent from the 2009 crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 184 thousand. Yield is forecast at 1,174 pounds per acre.

Rice - All rice production in California for 2010 is forecast at 44.1 million cwt., down 8 percent from the previous year. The yield forecast is 7,800 pounds per acre, down 4 percent from the August 1 forecast. Planted and harvested acreages are estimated at 569 thousand and 566 thousand acres, respectively. As of September 1, approximately ninety percent of the rice acres had headed. Harvest is expected to begin in a couple of weeks.

Corn - Corn for grain production in California for 2010 is forecast at 764 thousand tons, down 5 percent from last year's crop, unchanged from the August forecast. With harvested acreage estimated at 140 thousand acres, the yield is 5.46 tons per acre. Compared to the 2009 crop year, harvested acreage is down 12.5 percent, and yield is up 8 percent.

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Sugar Beets - The 2010 California sugar beet production forecast is 1.00 million tons, unchanged from the August forecast and up 13 percent from last season. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month with 25.0 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 8, 2010.

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