



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 August. The latest survey, conducted during the last week of July and the first week of August, included the following commodities:

Apples - California's 2011 apple crop forecast is 140 thousand tons, unchanged from 2010. Weather so far has been excellent for California apple development. Harvest for Granny Smith and Gala varieties began in early August. There has been low pest and disease pressure; quality and size are looking very good.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 625 thousand bales, an increase of 64 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 189 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1,587 pounds per acre. California's American Pima cotton production forecast is 685 thousand bales, up 48 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 259 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1,269 pounds per acre.

Grapes - Wine-type variety grape production for California is forecast at 3.40 million tons, unchanged from the July forecast and down 6 percent from the 2010 crop. The table-type grape production is expected to total 1.00 million tons, down 9 percent from the July forecast and down 1 percent from last year. Table grapes are being harvested. The California raisin-type variety grape forecast is 2.05 million tons, down 7 percent from the July forecast and down 1 percent from last year. The 2011 California grape crop is one to two weeks behind normal, due to the cool and wet spring. Frost damage in the spring affected some areas of the state, but the extent of the damage is still unknown. Powdery mildew has been a problem for many growers due to the wetter than normal spring and mild summer temperatures. The moderate summer temperatures have been good for berry development, though. Insect pressure has been low.

Olives - California's 2011 olive crop forecast is 65.0 thousand tons, down 67 percent from last year. Growers started the growing season with expectations of a lower crop after last year's record production. Weather conditions during the bloom period adversely impacted the crop. Many orchards were stressed after the previous crop and would not have produced an average crop under ideal growing conditions. Cool weather experienced during the beginning of the growing season set the crop's development slightly behind normal. The crop was looking more positive for growers intending to produce olive oil rather than canned olives. Agricultural practices common among olive oil producers seem to have played a role in limiting the impact of the olive's alternate bearing cycle.

Pears - The forecast of the 2011 Bartlett pear crop in California is 190 thousand tons, an increase of 12 percent from last year. The 2011 other pear forecast for California is 57 thousand tons, up 14 percent from 2010. A cooler than average California spring set Bartlett fruit development slightly behind normal; and delayed the start of harvest by one to two weeks. The Bartlett harvest began in the Sacramento Valley in the latter half of July. Harvesting was anticipated to start soon in the Lake and Mendocino regions.

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Other Crops - The rice production forecast is 47.48 million cwt., up 7 percent from 2010; alfalfa hay is 6.49 million tons, up 4 percent; other hay is 1.98 million tons, unchanged; corn for grain is 798 thousand tons, down 19 percent; sugar beets are 1.08 million tons, up 7 percent; dry beans are 1.02 million cwt., down 30 percent; oats are 27.2 thousand tons, down 28 percent; barley is 99 thousand tons, down 5 percent from 2010.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these forecasts considerably. The next production forecast will be issued September 12, 2011.

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