



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 2012. 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 began is not reflected in this report.

Barley - California farmers had planted or intended to plant 90.0 thousand acres of barley, down 10 percent from the previous year.

Beans, Dry Edible - Seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 51.0 thousand acres in California, up 12 percent from last year.

Corn - California farmers were expecting to plant 640 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2012, a 2 percent increase from last year.

Cotton - California farmers were intending to plant 150 thousand acres of Upland cotton in 2011, down 18 percent from the acreage seeded in 2011. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 250 thousand acres of American Pima cotton in 2012, down 8 percent from last year.

Hay, All - California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.50 million acres, up 8 percent from last year.

Oats - Farmers in California had planted or were expecting to plant 220 thousand acres of oats, 10 percent more than in 2011.

Rice - California farmers intended to seed rice on 544 thousand acres, 7 percent below the acreage seeded in 2011. The expressed intentions were to seed 490 thousand acres of medium grain varieties, 8 percent below last year. The long grain rice acreage forecast is 4.0 thousand acres, down 43 percent from last season. The short grain rice planted acreage forecast is 50.0 thousand acres, up 16 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 2011.

Sunflower – California farmers were expecting to plant 39.0 thousand acres of sunflowers for oil, down 2 percent from last year, and 7.0 thousand acres of non-oil sunflowers, up 75 percent from 2011.

Sweet Potatoes - California farmers were expecting to plant 19.0 thousand acres of sweet potatoes in 2012, up 3 percent from last year.

Wheat - Acreage seeded to Winter wheat is forecast at 670 thousand acres, unchanged from last year. Another 140 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 17 percent above the amount planted in 2011.

The next production forecast will be issued April 10, 2012.

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