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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 has released the crop production forecast for July. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of June and the first week of July, included the following commodities.

Almonds - California's almond production is forecast at 2.10 billion meat pounds, up 3 percent from last year's crop. The forecast is based on 780 thousand bearing acres. The 2012 California almond crop began with a warm and dry February that created favorable bloom conditions for almond trees. The bloom period was shorter than last year, but the excellent weather made up for the shorter overlap. Chilling hours were plentiful. An early March frost resulted in some spotty damage in the South San Joaquin Valley, and an early April hailstorm affected orchards in Merced County. Weather in the Sacramento Valley has been near ideal. A heavier than normal drop was reported in the San Joaquin Valley. Across the state, lower limb death was higher than in 2011. Disease and insect pressure have been minimal.

Apricots - California's apricot production is forecast at 60.0 thousand tons, down 4 percent from the 2011 crop. The California apricot harvest continued throughout the Central and San Joaquin Valleys in July.

Oranges - The 2011-2012 California Navel orange forecast is 88.0 million cartons, unchanged from the April forecast, and down 8 percent from last season. The navel orange harvest reached its end as final picking was completed in early July. The Valencia orange forecast is 28.0 million cartons, unchanged from the April forecast, and down 3 percent from last season's crop. The California Valencia orange harvest continued to pick up as the domestic fresh market shifted from Navels to Valencias.

Lemons - The 2011-2012 California lemon forecast is 40.0 million cartons, up 3 percent from the April forecast, and down 5 percent from last season. The California lemon harvest was completed in the San Joaquin Valley as picking along the southern coastal region was ongoing.

Grapefruit - The 2011-2012 California grapefruit forecast is 6.80 million cartons, unchanged from the April forecast, and down 21 percent from last season's crop. Harvest continued in the Central Valley.

Tangerines - The 2011-12 tangerine forecast is 21.8 million cartons, up 11 percent from the April forecast, and up 10 percent from last season. Tangerine harvest was completed in late May.

Other Crops - Barley production is forecast at 85.8 thousand tons, down 24 percent from the previous year. Oat production is forecast to be 45.6 thousand tons, 90 percent above 2011. Wheat other than Durum production is expected to be 842 thousand tons, down 21 percent from 2011. Durum wheat production is forecast at 429 thousand tons, 14 percent above 2011.

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 August 10, 2012.

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