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California Farm News

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California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · www.nass.usda.gov/ca
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CALIFORNIA CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

SACRAMENTO -- The USDA-NASS, California Field Office today released the crop production forecast for October. The latest survey, which was conducted during the last week of September and the first week of October, included the following commodities:

Cotton - Upland cotton is forecast at 475 thousand bales, down 4 percent from last month's forecast, and down 15 percent from last year. With harvested acreage of 141 thousand acres, the resulting yield is 1,617 pounds per acre. As of the beginning of October, cotton fields were in the final stages of harvest preparation.

Oranges - The 2012-13 California orange crop is forecast at 119 million cartons. California's Navel orange forecast is 93.0 million cartons. The 2012-13 navel crop continued to develop on a more normal schedule than the previous two years. Harvest is expected to begin in late October or early November. California's Valencia orange forecast is 26.0 million cartons.

Others – The grapefruit forecast is 8.0 million cartons; lemon forecast is 41.0 million cartons; tangerine and mandarin forecast is 23.6 million cartons; pecan production forecast is 5.0 million pounds. The corn for grain production forecast is 958 thousand tons, up 23 percent from 2011; alfalfa hay is forecast at 6.86 million tons, up 13 percent; other hay production is projected at 2.13 million tons, up 16 percent; dry edible bean production is expected to be 1,265 thousand cwt., up 23 percent; the rice crop forecast is 47.6 million cwt., down 2 percent and the sunflower forecast is 59.4 million pounds, up 34 percent from last year.

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 November 9, 2012.

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