



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Pacific Region Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Nevada and Hawaii Departments of Agriculture
Pacific Regional Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Media Contact: Dave DeWalt, 1-800-851-1127 · May 9, 2014

REGIONAL CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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

Almonds – The initial subjective forecast for the 2014 California almond production is 1.95 billion pounds. This is 2.5 percent below last year's production of 2.00 billion pounds. Yield is expected to average 2,270 pounds per acre, down 4.6 percent from the 2013 yield of 2,380 pounds per acre. Forecasted bearing acreage for 2014 is 860 thousand.

After the warmest winter on record for California, the almond bloom began in early February. The 2014 bloom was one of the earliest almond blooms in memory. Orchards required irrigation in the winter months due to the lack of precipitation, but rain early in the season offered some temporary relief. Pest and disease pressure has been lower than last year. Overall, the 2014 crop is developing faster than last year and harvest is expected to start early. Water is a concern for many growers this year.

Peaches – The 2014 California Freestone peach crop forecast is 320 thousand tons. Full bloom occurred approximately a week ahead of schedule and lasted longer than usual. Fruit set is variable. Growers are continuing to thin fruit. The 2014 California Clingstone peach crop forecast is 320 thousand tons. Full bloom occurred in early March, slightly earlier than last year. The Clingstone peach crop is good for the Extra Earlies and Earlies, while it appears to be lighter for the Lates and Extra Late varieties. Growers completed spraying and pruning by the end of March. The California drought situation remained a concern for peach growers. However, many growers will be able to offset reduced irrigation district water deliveries by utilizing wells to pump groundwater.

Spring Potatoes – The 2014 Spring Potato crop forecast is 10.0 million cwt., down 8 percent from last year. Planted and harvested acres are both estimated at 25.0 thousand, resulting in a yield of 400 cwt. per acre. Some spring potato growers have begun to harvest. Acreage is up in Kern County compared to last year, but below the 5-year average. Yield is lower than previous years.

Wheat - The 2014 Winter wheat production forecast is 480 thousand tons, down 41 percent from last year due to fewer acres planted by growers. Harvested acres are estimated at 200 thousand, resulting in a yield of 2.4 tons per acre. The wheat growing season in California began with a lack of significant precipitation. This held true until April, when much needed precipitation was received. To compensate some growers began their irrigation schedules earlier than usual. Dryland wheat was impacted the most by the lack of moisture, with stunting and maturation problems reported. The 2014 Durum wheat production forecast is 173 thousand tons, down 14 percent from 2013. Harvested acres are estimated at 55 thousand, with a yield of 3.2 tons per acre. The dry beginning to the year had little impact on the Durum wheat crop since irrigation is the norm. The Durum wheat harvest was expected to begin in Southern California by mid-May.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. The next production forecast will be issued June 11, 2014.

###

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write:
USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or
call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).*