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AVOCADOS & LEMONS

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



ANNUAL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

April 18, 1986

AVOCADOS

FLORIDA: Total production of avocados was 1,140,000 bushels in the 1985-86 season just completed, down slightly from the 1,180,000 bushels in 1984-85. This production was higher than the 1983-84 crop but 18 percent less than the record high 1,388,000 bushels produced in 1982-83.

Total crop value was a near record high \$16,416,000. Average price delivered to the packing house was \$14.40 per bushel, up substantially from \$9.75 for the 1984-85 crop. Summer and early fall prices were the lowest of the season with

winter varieties averaging higher.

Bearing acreage at 11,600 has increased to a record high, however non-bearing acreage is at the lowest level in recent years.

CALIFORNIA: Total production for the 1984-85 crop year ended last October was 7,800,000 bushel equivalents, down sharply from the record high 9,880,000 bushels produced in the 1983-84 season. Projected volume by the California Avocado Commission for the 1985-86 season indicates an even lower production. The value of production for the 1984-85 crop increased sharply over the two previous seasons, to a record high total value.

Table 1. Florida avocados: Bearing acreage, production, utilization, season average price and value of production at packing house door for crop years 1976-77 through 1985-86

Season	Bearing acres	Total production	Certified shipments	Local fresh use	Processing	Price per bushel	Value of production
	- Acres -	- Bushels -	- Bushels -	- Bushels -	- Bushels -	- Dollars -	- Dollars -
1976-77	6,900	844,000	818,000	10,000	16,000	10.30	8,659,000
1977-78	7,300	428,000	412,000	8,000	8,000	17.25	7,383,000
1978-79	7,700	924,000	895,000	8,000	21,000	10.00	9,240,000
1979-80	8,300	1,090,000	1,017,000	21,000	52,000	14.95	16,298,000
1980-81	9,000	1,230,000	1,114,000	26,000	90,000	13.25	16,293,000
1981-82	9,300	1,032,000	977,000	23,000	32,000	12.50	12,935,000
1982-83	10,000	1,388,000	1,326,000	32,000	30,000	12.00	16,656,000
1983-84	10,900	1,080,000	1,032,000	28,000	20,000	11.50	12,420,000
1984-85	11,000	1,180,000	1,150,000	20,000	10,000	9.75	11,505,000
1985-86	11,600	1,140,000	1,111,000	19,000	10,000	14.40	16,416,000

Table 2. California avocados: Bearing acreage, production, season average price and value of production at packing house door for crop years 1976-77 through 1985-86

Season	Bearing acres	Total production 1/	Price per bushel	Value of production
	- Acres -	- Bushels -	- Dollars -	- Dollars -
1976-77	29,041	4,800,000	14.80	71,160,000
1977-78	34,410	4,280,000	18.50	79,180,000
1978-79	39,960	4,920,000	17.30	84,993,000
1979-80	44,370	3,000,000	37.40	112,200,000
1980-81	47,830	9,520,000	8.90	84,966,000
1981-82	64,800	6,280,000	17.20	108,173,000
1982-83	72,300	8,080,000	11.50	92,920,000
1983-84	75,000	9,880,000	9.25	91,390,000
1984-85	73,800	7,800,000	14.75	115,050,000
1985-86 2/	NA	6,000,000	NA	NA

1/ Pounds converted to bushels at 50 pounds per bushel, rounded to nearest thousands. 2/ Projected

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Production of Florida lemons continues to decline. The 330,000 boxes produced in 1985 is down by 40 percent from the 1984 harvest. This is the smallest harvest in the 20 year series of reporting lemon production statistics in Florida. The State's record high production was in 1972 when 1,850,000 boxes were harvested. Severe freezes since that time sharply reduced the bearing acreage and very few new trees are being set to replace them.

True lemon production is mostly located along the lower East Coast and in the south central

Most of the true lemon production is harvested for fresh fruit channels. The Meyer lemon acreage is primarily located along the lower west coast and production is totally processed.

The average price received for all lemons in 1985 was a record high \$16.60 per box. The sharp rise reflects an increasing percentage going to fresh market at a much higher price. The total value of production was \$5,483,000.

Florida lemons: Bearing acreage, production, season average on-tree prices and value for crop years 1971 through 1985

Year	True Lemons	Meyer Lemons	All Lemons
Season	Bearing : Acres	Bearing : Acres	Bearing : Acres
Production	: Boxes	: Boxes	: Boxes
Price	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Dollars
Value of	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
1971	7.1	1,140	2.50
1972	6.8	1,180	3.00
1973	6.3	1,010	3.25
1974	6.0	1,150	2.50
1975	5.4	850	3.60
1976	5.6	900	2.45
1977	3.7	200	4.55
1978	3.5	370	5.25
1979	3.9	770	8.90
1980	3.8	850	7.90
1981	3.7	870	6.70
1982	2.0	140	13.30
1983	1.6	455	9.00
1984	1.6	485	NA
1985	1.4	275	NA

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