



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

2507 North Telshor Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88011
Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2018

Contact: Longino Bustillos
(800) 530-8810

CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 2018

NEW MEXICO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **all cotton** production in New Mexico is expected to total 163,000 480-lb bales, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is unchanged from the September 1 forecast and up 29 percent from last year's crop.

Upland cotton harvested acreage is forecast at 65,000 acres, up 19,000 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 150,000 480-lb bales of upland cotton, up 33 percent from last year. Upland yield is forecast at 1,108 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast, but down 71 pounds from last year. As of September 30, fifty-four percent of the upland cotton crop had bolls opening, compared with 51 percent last year and 59 percent for the 5-year average. The cotton crop was rated 6 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 7 percent excellent as of September 30. **Pima cotton** harvested acreage is estimated at 6,900 acres, down 500 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 13,000 480-lb bales of Pima cotton, compared with 13,300 bales last year. Pima yield is forecast at 904 pounds per acre, up 41 pounds from last year.

New Mexico farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 180,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, down 10,000 acres from 2017. Alfalfa production is forecast at 918,000 tons, down 3 percent from 2017. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 5.10 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 5.00 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 4.90 tons per acre.

Pecan production in New Mexico is forecast at 85.00 million pounds, down 8 percent from the 2017 season's record high production.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All cotton production is forecast at 19.8 million 480-pound bales, up less than 1 percent from September but down 6 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 901 pounds per harvested acre, up 6 pounds from last month but down 4 pounds from last year. Harvested area for all cotton is expected to total 10.5 million acres, down less than 1 percent from September and down 5 percent from 2017. **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 19.0 million 480-pound bales, down 6 percent from 2017. Upland harvested area is expected to total 10.3 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. If realized, the United States average yield for all cotton and Upland cotton will be the second highest on record. **Pima cotton** production, forecast at 771,000 bales, was carried forward from last month.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2018 is forecast at 59.5 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 8 percent from 2017. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.10 ton from the August forecast and up 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 17.4 million acres up 5 percent from 2017.

Pecan production is forecast at 279 million pounds (utilized, in-shell basis), down 5 percent from 2017. Improved varieties are expected to produce 258 million pounds or 93 percent of the total. The native and seedling varieties are expected to produce 20.7 million pounds, making up the remaining 7 percent of production.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.