



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 today released the crop production forecast for August. The latest survey, conducted during the last week of July and the first week of August, included the following commodities:

Apples - California's 2012 apple crop forecast is 140 thousand tons, unchanged from 2011. Weather so far has been excellent for California apple development. Harvest for Galas began in late July, earlier than last year's delayed August start. The Granny Smith harvest is expected to start in early August. There has been low pest and disease pressure; quality and size were looking very good.

Cotton - Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 520 thousand bales, a decrease of 6 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 149 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1,675 pounds per acre. California's American Pima cotton production forecast is 625 thousand bales, down 20 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 214 thousand acres, resulting in a yield of 1,402 pounds per acre.

Grapes - Wine-type variety grape production for California is forecast at 3.70 million tons, up 9 percent from the 2011 crop. The table-type grape production is expected to total 1.00 million tons, down 3 percent from last year. The California raisin-type variety grape forecast is 1.90 million tons, down 13 percent from last year. The 2012 California grape crop is developing well, in the warm and dry weather. Bunch counts were reported to be up from last year for wine grapes, but were down significantly for Thompsons. Because of the dry weather, mildew was not a major problem for most growers. European Grapevine Moth pressure was low this year. Harvest of raisin and table-type grapes for fresh use continued in the Coachella Valley into early July. Harvest started in the San Joaquin Valley in mid July. Thompson Seedless was the primary raisin-type variety harvested, and Flame Seedless was the primary table-type variety harvested.

Pears - The forecast of the 2012 Bartlett pear crop in California is 170 thousand tons, a decrease of 13 percent from last year. The 2012 other pear forecast for California is 50 thousand tons, down 12 percent from 2011. The Bartlett harvest had begun in the Sacramento Valley by mid-July, this was an earlier than last year's late start. Harvesting was anticipated to start in the Lake and Mendocino regions by early August. Quality and sizing were reported to be good, with no unusual pest or disease pressure was reported.

Other Crops - The rice production forecast is 46.62 million cwt., down 4 percent from 2011; alfalfa hay is 6.66 million tons, up 10 percent; other hay is 1.85 million tons, up 1 percent; corn for grain is 958 thousand tons, up 23 percent; sugar beets are 1.08 million tons, down 2.6 percent; dry beans are 1.27 million cwt., up 23 percent; oats are 45.6 thousand tons, 90 percent above 2011. Barley is 88.9 thousand tons, down 21.6 percent from 2011.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these forecasts considerably. The next production forecast will be issued September 12, 2012.

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