



Crop Production

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Orange Production Up 2 Percent from February

The United States all orange forecast for the 2010-2011 season is 8.84 million tons, up 2 percent from the February 1 forecast and 8 percent above the 2009-2010 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 142 million boxes (6.39 million tons), is up 3 percent from the February 1 forecast and 6 percent above last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 70.0 million boxes (3.15 million tons), up 6 percent from February and 2 percent higher than last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 72.0 million boxes (3.24 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 11 percent from the 2009-2010 crop. In Florida, fruit size is projected to be below average while droppage is projected to be above average. The forecast for Texas is carried forward from February.

The California Valencia orange forecast is 13.0 million boxes (520,000 tons), down 7 percent from the previous forecast. This brings California's all orange forecast to 59.5 million boxes (2.38 million tons), down 2 percent from the February 1 forecast. Objective survey measurements taken during January and February indicated that fruit set per tree was down compared with last year, while measured average fruit size was smaller than the previous year.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2010-2011 season is 1.57 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but up 1 percent from last season's final yield of 1.56 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.52 gallons per box, up 1 percent from last season's yield of 1.51 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.62 gallons per box, 1 percent lower than last year's final yield of 1.63 gallons per box. All projections of yield assume the processing relationships this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

This report was approved on March 10, 2011.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
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Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2009 and 2010

Use and State	Area harvested		Yield per acre ¹		Production ¹	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
For sugar						
Florida	370.0	375.0	35.9	32.7	13,283	12,263
Hawaii ²	20.3	15.7	65.6	76.3	1,332	1,198
Louisiana ²	390.0	390.0	32.2	29.0	12,558	11,310
Texas ²	36.7	49.0	36.0	33.0	1,321	1,617
United States	817.0	829.7	34.9	31.8	28,494	26,388
For seed						
Florida	17.0	19.0	38.6	37.3	656	709
Hawaii ²	1.9	1.5	26.3	30.0	50	45
Louisiana ²	35.0	30.0	32.2	29.0	1,127	870
Texas ²	3.0	3.0	35.0	33.0	105	99
United States	56.9	53.5	34.1	32.2	1,938	1,723
For sugar and seed						
Florida	387.0	394.0	36.0	32.9	13,939	12,972
Hawaii ²	22.2	17.2	62.3	72.3	1,382	1,243
Louisiana ²	425.0	420.0	32.2	29.0	13,685	12,180
Texas ²	39.7	52.0	35.9	33.0	1,426	1,716
United States	873.9	883.2	34.8	31.8	30,432	28,111

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the *Crop Production 2010 Summary* released January 12, 2011.

Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2009-2010 and Forecasted March 1, 2011

[The crop year begins with the bloom of the first year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year]

Crop and State	Utilized production boxes ¹		Utilized production ton equivalent	
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2009-2010	2010-2011
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Oranges				
Early, mid, and navel ²				
California ³	42,500	46,500	1,594	1,860
Florida	68,600	70,000	3,087	3,150
Texas ³	1,360	1,360	58	58
United States	112,460	117,860	4,739	5,068
Valencia				
California	14,000	13,000	525	520
Florida	65,000	72,000	2,925	3,240
Texas ³	275	280	12	12
United States	79,275	85,280	3,462	3,772
All				
California	56,500	59,500	2,119	2,380
Florida	133,600	142,000	6,012	6,390
Texas ³	1,635	1,640	70	70
United States	191,735	203,140	8,201	8,840
Grapefruit				
White				
Florida	6,000	5,600	255	238
Colored				
Florida	14,300	14,000	608	595
All				
California ³	4,200	3,500	141	140
Florida	20,300	19,600	863	833
Texas ³	5,600	5,700	224	228
United States	30,100	28,800	1,228	1,201
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ^{3 4}	350	300	13	12
California ^{3 4}	9,900	9,600	371	384
Florida	4,450	4,400	211	209
United States	14,700	14,300	595	605
Lemons ³				
Arizona	2,200	2,500	84	100
California	20,500	21,000	779	840
United States	22,700	23,500	863	940
Tangelos				
Florida	900	1,100	41	50

¹ Net pounds per box: oranges in California-80 (75 prior to the 2010-2011 crop year), Florida-90, Texas-85; grapefruit in California-80 (67 prior to the 2010-2011 crop year), Florida-85, Texas-80; lemons-80 (76 prior to the 2010-2011 crop year), tangelos-90; tangerines and mandarins in Arizona and California-80 (75 prior to the 2010-2011 crop year), Florida-95.

² Navel and miscellaneous varieties in California. Early (including navel) and midseason varieties in Florida and Texas. Small quantities of tangerines in Texas and Temples in Florida.

³ Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

⁴ Includes tangelos and tangors.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested – United States: 2010 and 2011 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2011 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2010 (1,000 acres)	2011 (1,000 acres)	2010 (1,000 acres)	2011 (1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	2,872		2,465	
Corn for grain ¹	88,192		81,446	
Corn for silage	(NA)		5,567	
Hay, all	(NA)		59,862	
Alfalfa	(NA)		19,956	
All other	(NA)		39,906	
Oats	3,138		1,263	
Proso millet	390		363	
Rice	3,636		3,615	
Rye	1,211		265	
Sorghum for grain ¹	5,404		4,808	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		273	
Wheat, all	53,603		47,637	
Winter	37,335	40,990	31,749	
Durum	2,570		2,529	
Other spring	13,698		13,359	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,448.8		1,431.0	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	421		418	
Mustard seed	50.5		48.1	
Peanuts	1,288.0		1,255.0	
Rapeseed	2.3		2.2	
Safflower	175.0		167.7	
Soybeans for beans	77,404		76,616	
Sunflower	1,951.5		1,873.8	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	10,973.2		10,706.7	
Upland	10,769.0		10,505.0	
American Pima	204.2		201.7	
Sugarbeets	1,171.4		1,155.7	
Sugarcane	(NA)		883.2	
Tobacco	(NA)		337.5	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	31.2		17.9	
Dry edible beans	1,911.4		1,842.7	
Dry edible peas	756.0		711.4	
Lentils	658.0		634.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		6.3	
Hops	(NA)		31.3	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		71.3	
Potatoes, all	1,020.6		1,004.3	
Spring	88.8		85.9	
Summer	38.1		37.1	
Fall	893.7		881.3	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		18.6	
Sweet potatoes	119.8		116.9	
Taro (Hawaii) ²	(NA)		0.5	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

² Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acres.

Crop Yield and Production – United States: 2010 and 2011 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2011 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
			(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay				
Barley	bushels	73.1	180,268	
Corn for grain	bushels	152.8	12,446,865	
Corn for silage	tons	19.3	107,314	
Hay, all	tons	2.43	145,556	
Alfalfa	tons	3.40	67,903	
All other	tons	1.95	77,653	
Oats	bushels	64.3	81,190	
Proso millet	bushels	31.8	11,535	
Rice ¹	cwt	6,725	243,104	
Rye	bushels	28.0	7,431	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	71.8	345,395	
Sorghum for silage	tons	12.5	3,420	
Wheat, all	bushels	46.4	2,208,391	
Winter	bushels	46.8	1,485,236	
Durum	bushels	42.4	107,180	
Other spring	bushels	46.1	615,975	
Oilseeds				
Canola	pounds	1,713	2,450,947	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)	6,191.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	21.7	9,056	
Mustard seed	pounds	870	41,861	
Peanuts	pounds	3,311	4,155,600	
Rapeseed	pounds	1,891	4,160	
Safflower	pounds	1,320	221,335	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	43.5	3,329,341	
Sunflower	pounds	1,460	2,735,570	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ¹	bales	821	18,314.5	
Upland ¹	bales	814	17,817.0	
American Pima ¹	bales	1,184	497.5	
Sugarbeets	tons	27.6	31,945	
Sugarcane	tons	31.8	28,111	
Tobacco	pounds	2,133	719,786	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas ¹	cwt	1,666	237	
Dry edible beans ¹	cwt	1,726	31,801	
Dry edible peas ¹	cwt	1,999	14,221	
Lentils ¹	cwt	1,365	8,657	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)	580	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	pounds	1,250	7,900	
Hops	pounds	2,093	65,492.6	
Peppermint oil	pounds	89	6,363	
Potatoes, all	cwt	395	397,077	
Spring	cwt	289	24,820	
Summer	cwt	311	11,530	
Fall	cwt	409	360,727	
Spearmint oil	pounds	125	2,318	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	204	23,845	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	(NA)	3,900	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Yield in pounds.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested – United States: 2010 and 2011 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2011 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2010 (hectares)	2011 (hectares)	2010 (hectares)	2011 (hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,162,270		997,560	
Corn for grain ¹	35,690,420		32,960,380	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,252,910	
Hay, all ²	(NA)		24,225,550	
Alfalfa	(NA)		8,075,990	
All other	(NA)		16,149,560	
Oats	1,269,920		511,120	
Proso millet	157,830		146,900	
Rice	1,471,450		1,462,950	
Rye	490,080		107,240	
Sorghum for grain ¹	2,186,940		1,945,750	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		110,480	
Wheat, all ²	21,692,600		19,278,220	
Winter	15,109,100	16,588,240	12,848,500	
Durum	1,040,050		1,023,460	
Other spring	5,543,440		5,406,250	
Oilseeds				
Canola	586,310		579,110	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	170,370		169,160	
Mustard seed	20,440		19,470	
Peanuts	521,240		507,890	
Rapeseed	930		890	
Safflower	70,820		67,870	
Soybeans for beans	31,324,620		31,005,730	
Sunflower	789,750		758,310	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	4,440,740		4,332,890	
Upland	4,358,110		4,251,270	
American Pima	82,640		81,630	
Sugarbeets	474,050		467,700	
Sugarcane	(NA)		357,420	
Tobacco	(NA)		136,560	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	12,630		7,240	
Dry edible beans	773,520		745,720	
Dry edible peas	305,950		287,900	
Lentils	266,290		256,570	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		2,550	
Hops	(NA)		12,660	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		28,850	
Potatoes, all ²	413,030		406,430	
Spring	35,940		34,760	
Summer	15,420		15,010	
Fall	361,670		356,650	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		7,530	
Sweet potatoes	48,480		47,310	
Taro (Hawaii) ³	(NA)		190	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

² Total may not add due to rounding.

³ Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

Crop Yield and Production – United States: 2010 and 2011 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2011 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.93		3,924,870	
Corn for grain	9.59		316,164,930	
Corn for silage	43.21		97,353,620	
Hay, all ¹	5.45		132,046,180	
Alfalfa	7.63		61,600,570	
All other	4.36		70,445,620	
Oats	2.31		1,178,470	
Proso millet	1.78		261,610	
Rice	7.54		11,027,010	
Rye	1.76		188,760	
Sorghum for grain	4.51		8,773,440	
Sorghum for silage	28.08		3,102,570	
Wheat, all ¹	3.12		60,102,550	
Winter	3.15		40,421,500	
Durum	2.85		2,916,960	
Other spring	3.10		16,764,090	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.92		1,111,730	
Cottonseed	(X)		5,616,380	
Flaxseed	1.36		230,030	
Mustard seed	0.98		18,990	
Peanuts	3.71		1,884,950	
Rapeseed	2.12		1,890	
Safflower	1.48		100,400	
Soybeans for beans	2.92		90,609,810	
Sunflower	1.64		1,240,830	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ¹	0.92		3,987,510	
Upland	0.91		3,879,190	
American Pima	1.33		108,320	
Sugarbeets	61.96		28,980,020	
Sugarcane	71.35		25,501,870	
Tobacco	2.39		326,490	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.48		10,750	
Dry edible beans	1.93		1,442,470	
Dry edible peas	2.24		645,050	
Lentils	1.53		392,670	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		26,310	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	1.41		3,580	
Hops	2.35		29,710	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,890	
Potatoes, all ¹	44.32		18,011,110	
Spring	32.39		1,125,820	
Summer	34.83		522,990	
Fall	45.88		16,362,300	
Spearmint oil	0.14		1,050	
Sweet potatoes	22.86		1,081,590	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		1,770	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Production may not add due to rounding.

Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2010 and 2011 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2011 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2010-2011 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2010 (1,000)	2011 (1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruittons	1,228	1,201
Lemonstons	863	940
Orangestons	8,201	8,840
Tangelos (Florida)tons	41	50
Tangerines and mandarinstons	595	605
Noncitrus		
Applespounds	9,286.6	
Apricotstons	65.5	
Bananas (Hawaii)pounds	20,900	
Grapestons	6,856.8	
Olives (California)tons	190.0	
Papayas (Hawaii)pounds	27,500	
Peachestons	1,151.3	
Pearstons	807.6	
Prunes, dried (California)tons	125.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)tons	12.3	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)pounds	1,650,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)tons	27	
Pecans, in-shellpounds	259,660	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)tons	510	
Maple syrupgallons	1,955	

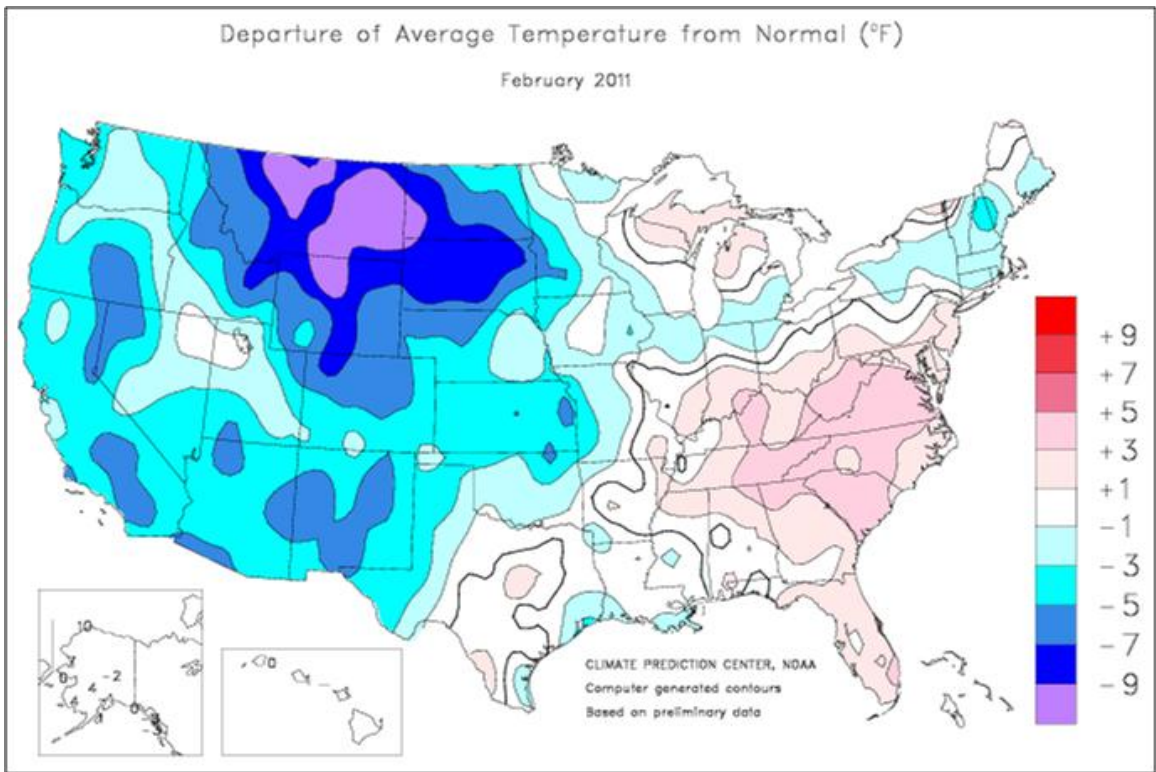
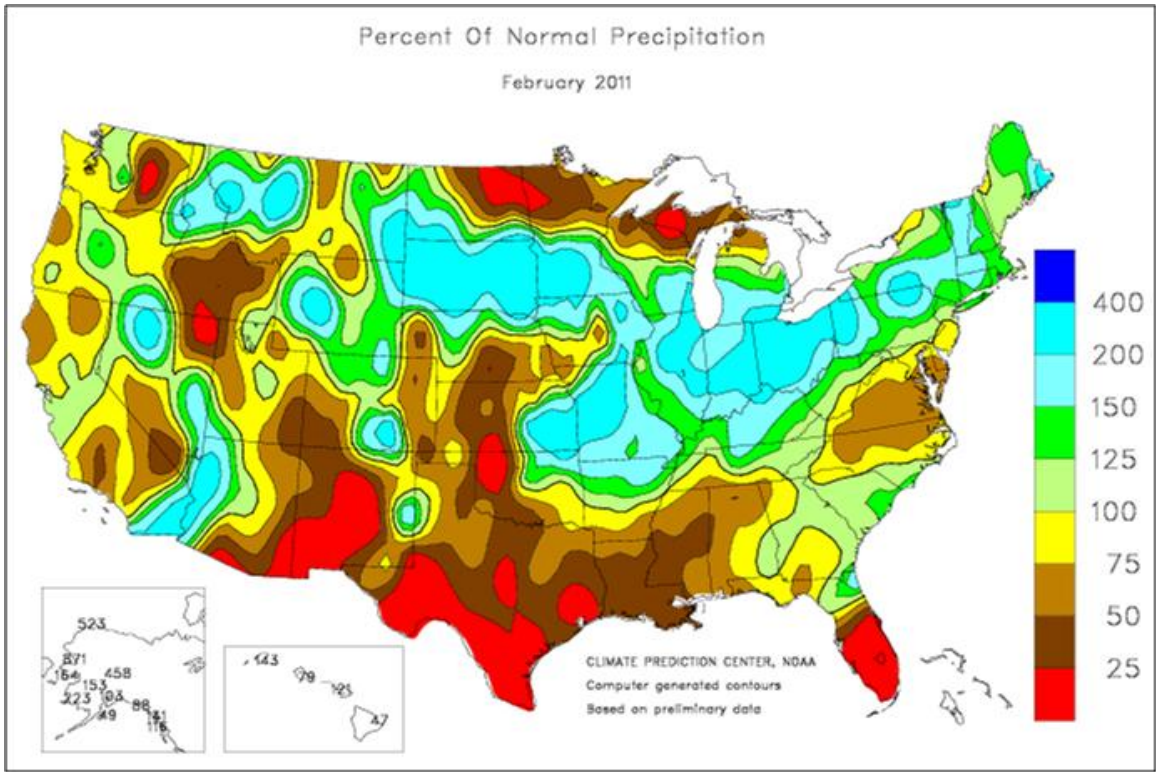
¹ Production years are 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2010 and 2011 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2011 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2010-2011 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2010 (metric tons)	2011 (metric tons)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	1,114,020	1,089,530
Lemons	782,900	852,750
Oranges	7,439,820	8,019,510
Tangelos (Florida)	37,190	45,360
Tangerines and mandarins	539,770	548,850
Noncitrus		
Apples	4,212,330	
Apricots	59,400	
Bananas (Hawaii)	9,480	
Grapes	6,220,360	
Olives (California)	172,370	
Papayas (Hawaii)	12,470	
Peaches	1,044,440	
Pears	732,640	
Prunes, dried (California)	113,400	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)	11,160	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	748,430	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	24,490	
Pecans, in-shell	117,780	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	462,660	
Maple syrup	9,770	

¹ Production years are 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.



February Weather Summary

Many parts of the country experienced opposite weather regimes during the first and second halves of the month. For example, the West turned cool and wet in mid-February, following an extended period of mild, dry weather.

Variable weather conditions also affected the Plains, where two severe cold outbreaks were followed by record-breaking warmth. Of particular concern was winter wheat on the central and southern High Plains, which - in addition to the February temperature swings - has been adversely affected by drought. From November 28 to February 27, the portion of the winter wheat crop rated in very poor to poor condition increased from 26 to 56 percent in Texas, 8 to 42 percent in Oklahoma, and 25 to 40 percent in Kansas.

In contrast, snow continued to accumulate across the northern Plains and upper Midwest, increasing the likelihood of spring flooding. Flooding was a more immediate concern in the central and eastern Corn Belt, where melting snow and late-February downpours pushed many creeks and rivers out of their banks.

Elsewhere, parts of the Mid-South and Southeast experienced some February drought relief, but drought continued to expand and intensify in southern Florida and the western and central Gulf Coast States.

February Agricultural Summary

Despite an early-month storm system that delivered subfreezing temperatures, snow, and ice to areas as far south as Florida, above average temperatures and mostly sunny skies blanketed much of the Southeast and mid-Atlantic Coast during February. Elsewhere, below average temperatures prevailed throughout much of the country from the Great Plains westward. Specifically, monthly recordings dipped to 10 degrees or more below normal in the northern Rocky Mountains. While much of the United States was relatively dry during the month, areas of the Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Ohio Valley received precipitation totaling 200 percent or more above normal.

Row crop producers in many areas of the country were afforded ample time throughout much of the month to ready farm equipment and fields for spring planting. In California, garbanzo beans and safflower were being planted as the month began, while corn and sorghum fields in several regions of Texas were planted toward month's end. Sugarcane producers in Florida and Texas spent much of the month wrapping up the harvest of their 2010 crop.

A lack of available soil moisture left producers in portions of Kansas and Texas, the two largest winter wheat-producing States, concerned about crop condition and development as spring approached. Similarly, a strong winter storm delivered subfreezing temperatures and ice to areas of the Blacklands, Cross Timbers, Plains, and Trans-Pecos regions of Texas, negatively impacting many oat and wheat fields. Elsewhere, many winter wheat fields in Washington were reported in good condition despite concerns of potential mold and stripe rust outbreaks.

As subfreezing temperatures plunged southward in early February, vegetable producers in southern Texas ran irrigation systems to help prevent crop damage while continuing to harvest their cabbage and citrus crops. In Florida, citrus producers harvested grapefruit, as well as early and midseason oranges throughout the month. Orchard maintenance activities were ongoing and included irrigation, hedging and topping of trees, and lime applications. Bee colonies were moved into almond orchards in California as seedbed preparations were made for spring vegetable crops. As the month ended, producers in California made bloom sprays to almond orchards, while budding and early bloom was evident on many peach and plum trees.

Crop Comments

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2010 is estimated at 28.1 million tons, of which 26.4 million tons will be utilized for sugar and 1.72 million tons for seed. Total production for sugar and seed is up fractionally from the previous forecast but down 8 percent from 2009. Producers expect to harvest 883,200 acres for sugar and seed for the 2010 crop year, up 1,000 acres from February and 9,300 acres from the previous year. Expected yield is forecast at 31.8 tons per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 3.0 tons from 2009.

Production in Florida is estimated at 13.0 million tons, up marginally from February but down 7 percent from last year. Hard freezes in late December and January negatively impacted the sugarcane crop in the Everglades region of Florida, leaving portions of some seed cane fields unsalvageable, reducing yields in others, and ultimately leading to a shorter harvest period this year. Warmer temperatures following the rapid harvest of freeze-damaged cane led to some fermentation in cane stocks. As a result, sugar and seed yield in Florida is estimated at 32.9 tons per acre, unchanged from February but down 3.1 tons from 2009. Estimates for Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas were carried forward from January.

Grapefruit: The 2010-2011 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.20 million tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but down 2 percent from the 2009-2010 crop.

Florida grapefruit production is forecast at 19.6 million boxes (833,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 3 percent from last season. The Florida all white grapefruit forecast is 5.60 million boxes (238,000 tons), down 7 percent from the 2009-2010 season. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 14.0 million boxes (595,000 tons), is 2 percent below last season. California and Texas grapefruit production forecasts are carried forward from the February 1 forecast.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.10 million boxes (50,000 tons), up 11 percent from the February 1 forecast and up 22 percent from last season's final utilization.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 605,000 tons, unchanged from the February 1 forecast but up 2 percent from the previous season. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.40 million boxes (209,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 1 percent from the previous season. Arizona and California tangerine and mandarin production forecasts are carried forward from the February 1 forecast.

Florida citrus: In the citrus growing areas, temperatures were predominantly in the 70s during the month. Weather stations reported lows in the 30s to the 50s and highs in the 80 degree range. Drought conditions worsened during February, with light rainfall having little effect on improving soil moisture.

Citrus growers reported harvest of Murcott tangerines continued, while harvesting of the Sunburst variety neared completion. The harvest of Navel oranges was winding down, while that of Valencia oranges began. Grapefruit and early and midseason oranges continued to be picked on schedule.

Nearly all of the processing plants are open. Early and midseason oranges and grapefruit made up the majority of fruit going to the plants. Heavy irrigation and harvesting dominated the grove activities during the month.

California citrus: The navel orange, mandarin, lemon, pummelo, and grapefruit harvests continued in the San Joaquin Valley, but wet conditions slowed the pace and increased fruit decay. The navel orange growers accelerated harvest in order to limit fruit losses due to rind breakdown. Lemons and grapefruit were also picked in the desert region, with lemons being picked in the coastal regions as well. Freezing temperatures were recorded during February in the desert region.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Budding in peach and plum trees continued as blooming started in early variety trees. Pruning, spraying, and planting in orchards and vineyards were conducted as conditions allowed. Netting was placed on some stone fruit trees to protect new blossoms from birds. Good bud growth was reported in early season blueberry fields with bees being used for pollination.

The almond bloom was underway with most farmers getting ready for bloom spray. No significant damage to the trees was reported at this time as a result of cool temperatures late in the month.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the March 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which accounts for nearly 75 percent of the United States production. Bearing tree numbers are determined at the start of the season based on a fruit tree census conducted every other year, combined with ongoing review based on administrative data or special surveys. From mid-July to mid-September, the number of fruit per tree is determined. In September and subsequent months, fruit size measurement and fruit droppage surveys are conducted, which are combined with the previous components to develop the current forecast of production. California and Texas conduct grower and packer surveys on a quarterly basis in October, January, April, and July. California also conducts objective measurement surveys in September for navel oranges and in March for Valencia oranges.

Estimating procedures: State level objective yield estimates for Florida oranges were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. Reports from growers and packers in California and Texas were also used for setting estimates. These three States submit their analyses of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the survey data and the State analyses to prepare the published March 1 forecast.

Revision policy: The March 1 production forecasts will not be revised. A new forecast will be made each month throughout the growing season. End-of-season estimates will be published in the *Citrus Fruits Summary* released in September. The production estimates are based on all data available at the end of the marketing season, including information from marketing orders, shipments, and processor records. Allowances are made for recorded local utilization and home use.

Reliability: To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the March 1 production forecast and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20-year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error." Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current forecast relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's forecast are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 orange production forecast is 2.1 percent. However, if you exclude the 4 abnormal production seasons (2 freeze seasons and 2 hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 2.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 2.1 percent, or 2.0 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.6 percent, or 3.4 percent when excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 191,000 tons (192,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 18,000 tons to 503,000 tons (18,000 tons to 503,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons). The March 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 9 times and above 11 times (below 8 times and above 8 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the March 1 forecasts this year are likely to understate or overstate final production.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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