



Crop Production

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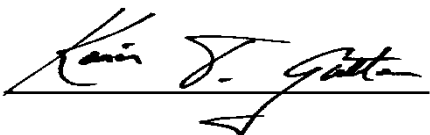
Released January 12, 2012, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Orange Production Down 2 Percent from December

The United States all orange forecast for the 2011-2012 season is 8.98 million tons, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 1 percent from the 2010-2011 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 147 million boxes (6.62 million tons), is down 2 percent from the December forecast but up 5 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 73.0 million boxes (3.29 million tons), down 3 percent from the December forecast but up 4 percent from last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 74.0 million boxes (3.33 million tons), is down 1 percent from the December forecast but up 6 percent from the 2010-2011 crop. Sizes for both Valencia and early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are expected to be larger than average, however size measurements for both were down from the December forecast. Little rainfall was received in Florida's citrus growing region during December.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2011-2012 season is 1.56 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 3 percent from the December forecast, and down 2 percent from last season's final yield of 1.59 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.44 gallons per box, down 5 percent from last season's yield of 1.52 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.70 gallons per box, 2 percent higher than last year's final yield of 1.66 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 January 12, 2012.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Karis T. Gutter



Agricultural Statistics Board
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Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2010-2011 and Forecasted January 1, 2012

[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	
	2010-2011 (1,000 boxes)	2011-2012 (1,000 boxes)	2010-2011 (1,000 tons)	2011-2012 (1,000 tons)
Oranges				
Early, mid, and Navel ²				
California	48,000	44,000	1,920	1,760
Florida	70,300	73,000	3,164	3,285
Texas	1,700	1,292	72	55
United States	120,000	118,292	5,156	5,100
Valencia				
California	13,500	13,500	540	540
Florida	70,000	74,000	3,150	3,330
Texas	249	334	11	14
United States	83,749	87,834	3,701	3,884
All				
California	61,500	57,500	2,460	2,300
Florida	140,300	147,000	6,314	6,615
Texas	1,949	1,626	83	69
United States	203,749	206,126	8,857	8,984
Grapefruit				
White				
Florida	5,850	5,200	249	221
Colored				
Florida	13,900	14,000	591	595
All				
California	4,100	3,300	164	132
Florida	19,750	19,200	840	816
Texas	6,300	4,977	252	199
United States	30,150	27,477	1,256	1,147
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ³	300	200	12	8
California ³	9,900	10,300	396	412
Florida	4,650	4,400	221	209
United States	14,850	14,900	629	629
Lemons				
Arizona	2,500	700	100	28
California	21,000	19,500	840	780
United States	23,500	20,200	940	808
Tangelos				
Florida	1,150	1,100	52	50

¹ Net pounds per box: oranges in California-80, Florida-90, Texas-85; grapefruit in California-80, Florida-85, Texas-80; tangerines and mandarins in Arizona and California-80, Florida-95; lemons-80; tangelos-90.

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 Includes tangelos and tangors.

Hay Stocks on Farms – States and United States: May 1 and December 1, 2010 and 2011

State	May 1		December 1	
	2010 (1,000 tons)	2011 (1,000 tons)	2010 (1,000 tons)	2011 (1,000 tons)
Alabama	192	187	1,200	1,385
Arizona	60	40	365	250
Arkansas	340	380	2,050	1,550
California	432	160	1,850	1,640
Colorado	650	450	2,000	1,800
Connecticut	14	12	45	55
Delaware	4	3	19	13
Florida	40	45	477	400
Georgia	210	188	1,360	800
Idaho	775	280	2,300	2,000
Illinois	310	320	1,310	980
Indiana	198	225	1,200	1,300
Iowa	420	610	3,050	2,750
Kansas	1,200	1,000	4,500	3,900
Kentucky	1,006	799	4,392	3,840
Louisiana	60	110	700	540
Maine	34	23	120	133
Maryland	60	65	310	360
Massachusetts	9	10	63	71
Michigan	330	420	2,000	1,500
Minnesota	630	810	3,700	3,800
Mississippi	90	137	1,175	1,486
Missouri	1,250	1,325	6,500	5,450
Montana	720	1,300	5,500	4,900
Nebraska	1,000	1,335	4,700	4,275
Nevada	310	46	819	830
New Hampshire	7	6	40	49
New Jersey	46	17	110	81
New Mexico	125	100	520	575
New York	400	273	1,744	1,800
North Carolina	296	253	1,157	1,175
North Dakota	1,310	1,250	5,370	6,100
Ohio	350	390	1,790	1,778
Oklahoma	650	1,200	4,550	2,800
Oregon	420	280	2,100	2,200
Pennsylvania	680	340	1,950	1,950
Rhode Island	2	1	8	8
South Carolina	130	110	490	400
South Dakota	2,190	1,850	7,850	8,400
Tennessee	678	746	2,985	3,101
Texas	1,100	2,500	9,500	3,800
Utah	245	144	1,050	1,420
Vermont	50	48	180	215
Virginia	350	402	1,660	2,500
Washington	280	350	1,607	1,460
West Virginia	125	190	790	953
Wisconsin	753	1,122	3,278	2,653
Wyoming	400	365	1,700	1,300
United States	20,931	22,217	102,134	90,726

Crop Area Planted and Harvested – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2011 (1,000 acres)	2012 (1,000 acres)	2011 (1,000 acres)	2012 (1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	2,559		2,239	
Corn for grain ¹	91,921		83,981	
Corn for silage	(NA)		5,928	
Hay, all	(NA)		55,633	
Alfalfa	(NA)		19,213	
All other	(NA)		36,420	
Oats	2,496		939	
Proso millet	370		338	
Rice	2,689		2,618	
Rye	1,266		242	
Sorghum for grain ¹	5,481		3,929	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		224	
Wheat, all	54,409		45,705	
Winter	40,646	41,947	32,314	
Durum	1,369		1,312	
Other spring	12,394		12,079	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,071.5		1,043.0	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	178		173	
Mustard seed	23.2		21.8	
Peanuts	1,140.6		1,097.6	
Rapeseed	1.5		1.3	
Safflower	130.7		127.3	
Soybeans for beans	74,976		73,636	
Sunflower	1,543.0		1,457.8	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	14,732.4		9,747.9	
Upland	14,426.0		9,444.0	
American Pima	306.4		303.9	
Sugarbeets	1,232.8		1,213.1	
Sugarcane	(NA)		873.0	
Tobacco	(NA)		324.8	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	18.0		12.3	
Dry edible beans	1,205.9		1,155.9	
Dry edible peas	362.0		342.8	
Lentils	428.0		411.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		6.3	
Hops	(NA)		29.8	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		74.0	
Potatoes, all	1,098.9		1,076.7	
Spring	93.3		91.5	
Summer	48.2		46.0	
Fall	957.4		939.2	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		17.3	
Sweet potatoes	134.2		130.3	
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: 2011 and 2012 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
			(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay				
Barley	bushels	69.6	155,780	
Corn for grain	bushels	147.2	12,358,412	
Corn for silage	tons	18.4	108,926	
Hay, all	tons	2.36	131,144	
Alfalfa	tons	3.40	65,332	
All other	tons	1.81	65,812	
Oats	bushels	57.1	53,649	
Proso millet	bushels	27.1	9,149	
Rice ¹	cwt	7,067	185,009	
Rye	bushels	26.1	6,326	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	54.6	214,443	
Sorghum for silage	tons	10.3	2,298	
Wheat, all	bushels	43.7	1,999,347	
Winter	bushels	46.2	1,493,677	
Durum	bushels	38.5	50,482	
Other spring	bushels	37.7	455,188	
Oilseeds				
Canola	pounds	1,475	1,538,010	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)	5,267.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	16.1	2,791	
Mustard seed	pounds	718	15,644	
Peanuts	pounds	3,313	3,636,320	
Rapeseed	pounds	2,177	2,830	
Safflower	pounds	1,333	169,671	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	41.5	3,056,032	
Sunflower	pounds	1,398	2,038,275	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ¹	bales	772	15,673.7	
Upland ¹	bales	754	14,828.0	
American Pima ¹	bales	1,336	845.7	
Sugarbeets	tons	23.7	28,789	
Sugarcane	tons	32.4	28,279	
Tobacco	pounds	1,850	601,029	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas ¹	cwt	1,463	180	
Dry edible beans ¹	cwt	1,716	19,833	
Dry edible peas ¹	cwt	1,641	5,625	
Lentils ¹	cwt	1,151	4,732	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)	509	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	pounds	1,320	8,300	
Hops	pounds	2,175	64,781.6	
Peppermint oil	pounds	89	6,570	
Potatoes, all	cwt	397	427,406	
Spring	cwt	279	25,573	
Summer	cwt	282	12,960	
Fall	cwt	414	388,873	
Spearmint oil	pounds	132	2,286	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	208	27,041	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	(NA)	4,100	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Yield in pounds.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2011 (hectares)	2012 (hectares)	2011 (hectares)	2012 (hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,035,600		906,100	
Corn for grain ¹	37,199,510		33,986,270	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,399,000	
Hay, all ²	(NA)		22,514,120	
Alfalfa	(NA)		7,775,310	
All other	(NA)		14,738,810	
Oats	1,010,110		380,000	
Proso millet	149,740		136,790	
Rice	1,088,210		1,059,480	
Rye	512,340		97,930	
Sorghum for grain ¹	2,218,110		1,590,030	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		90,650	
Wheat, all ²	22,018,780		18,496,360	
Winter	16,449,030	16,975,530	13,077,150	
Durum	554,020		530,950	
Other spring	5,015,730		4,888,250	
Oilseeds				
Canola	433,630		422,090	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	72,030		70,010	
Mustard seed	9,390		8,820	
Peanuts	461,590		444,190	
Rapeseed	610		530	
Safflower	52,890		51,520	
Soybeans for beans	30,342,040		29,799,750	
Sunflower	624,440		589,960	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	5,962,050		3,944,880	
Upland	5,838,060		3,821,890	
American Pima	124,000		122,990	
Sugarbeets	498,900		490,930	
Sugarcane	(NA)		353,290	
Tobacco	(NA)		131,460	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	7,280		4,980	
Dry edible beans	488,020		467,780	
Dry edible peas	146,500		138,730	
Lentils	173,210		166,330	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		2,550	
Hops	(NA)		12,050	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		29,950	
Potatoes, all ²	444,710		435,730	
Spring	37,760		37,030	
Summer	19,510		18,620	
Fall	387,450		380,080	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		7,000	
Sweet potatoes	54,310		52,730	
Taro (Hawaii) ³	(NA)		200	

(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: 2011 and 2012 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2011 (metric tons)	2012 (metric tons)	2011 (metric tons)	2012 (metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.74		3,391,710	
Corn for grain	9.24		313,918,120	
Corn for silage	41.19		98,816,000	
Hay, all ¹	5.28		118,971,840	
Alfalfa	7.62		59,268,190	
All other	4.05		59,703,640	
Oats	2.05		778,710	
Proso millet	1.52		207,500	
Rice	7.92		8,391,870	
Rye	1.64		160,690	
Sorghum for grain	3.43		5,447,100	
Sorghum for silage	23.00		2,084,710	
Wheat, all ¹	2.94		54,413,310	
Winter	3.11		40,651,230	
Durum	2.59		1,373,890	
Other spring	2.53		12,388,190	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.65		697,630	
Cottonseed	(X)		4,778,140	
Flaxseed	1.01		70,890	
Mustard seed	0.80		7,100	
Peanuts	3.71		1,649,410	
Rapeseed	2.44		1,280	
Safflower	1.49		76,960	
Soybeans for beans	2.79		83,171,560	
Sunflower	1.57		924,550	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ¹	0.87		3,412,550	
Upland	0.84		3,228,420	
American Pima	1.50		184,130	
Sugarbeets	53.20		26,116,940	
Sugarcane	72.61		25,654,280	
Tobacco	2.07		272,620	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.64		8,160	
Dry edible beans	1.92		899,610	
Dry edible peas	1.84		255,150	
Lentils	1.29		214,640	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		23,090	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	1.48		3,760	
Hops	2.44		29,380	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,980	
Potatoes, all ¹	44.49		19,386,810	
Spring	31.33		1,159,970	
Summer	31.58		587,860	
Fall	46.41		17,638,980	
Spearmint oil	0.15		1,040	
Sweet potatoes	23.26		1,226,560	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		1,860	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Production may not add due to rounding.

Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2012 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2011-2012 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2011 (1,000)	2012 (1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit tons	1,256	1,147
Lemons tons	940	808
Oranges tons	8,857	8,984
Tangelos (Florida) tons	52	50
Tangerines and mandarins tons	629	629
Noncitrus		
Apples 1,000 pounds	9,429.9	
Apricots tons	59.2	
Bananas (Hawaii) pounds		
Grapes tons	7,088.4	
Olives (California) tons	65.0	
Papayas (Hawaii) pounds		
Peaches tons	1,129.1	
Pears tons	888.3	
Prunes, dried (California) tons	122.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California) tons	13.1	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California) pounds	1,950,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) tons	41	
Pecans, in-shell pounds	251,700	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) tons	485	
Maple syrup gallons	2,794	

¹ Production years are 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

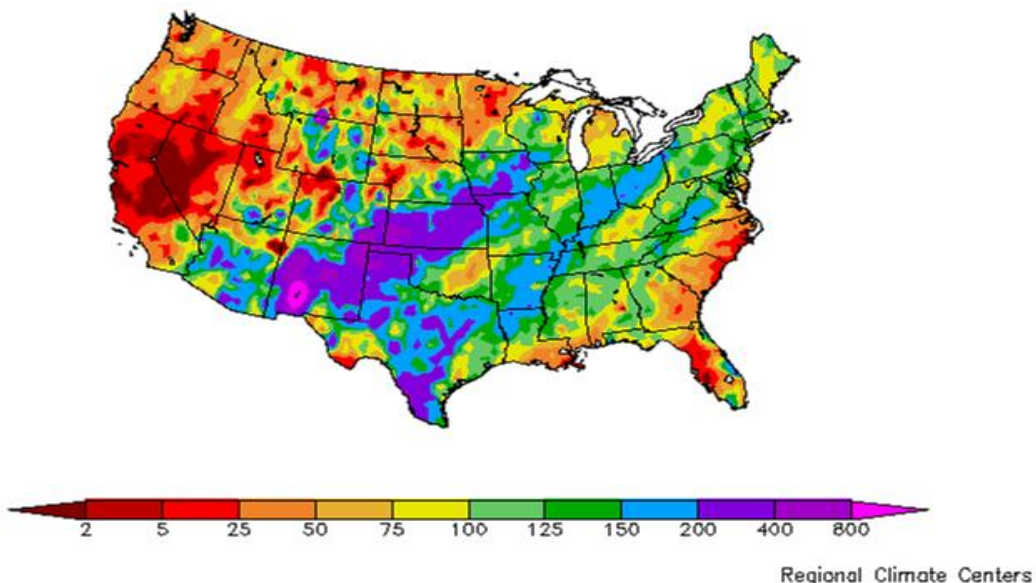
Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2011 and 2012 (Metric Units)

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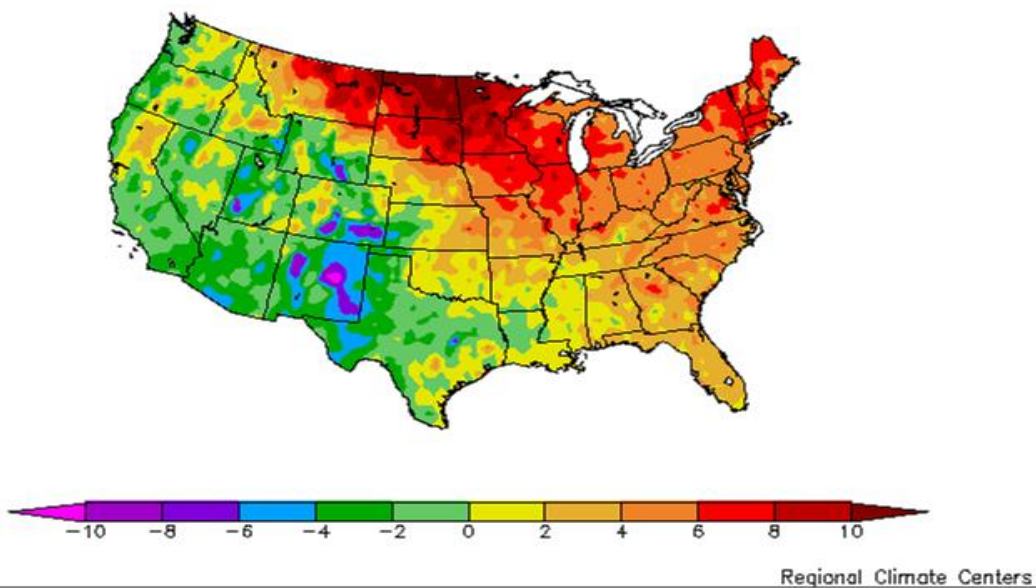
Crop	Production	
	2011 (metric tons)	2012 (metric tons)
Citrus¹		
Grapefruit	1,139,420	1,040,540
Lemons	852,750	733,010
Oranges	8,034,940	8,150,150
Tangelos (Florida)	47,170	45,360
Tangerines and mandarins	570,620	570,620
Noncitrus		
Apples	4,277,330	
Apricots	53,680	
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes	6,430,520	
Olives (California)	58,970	
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches	1,024,340	
Pears	805,850	
Prunes, dried (California)	110,680	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)	11,840	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	793,790	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	37,190	
Pecans, in-shell	114,170	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	439,980	
Maple syrup	13,970	

¹ Production years are 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
12/1/2011 - 12/31/2011



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2011 - 12/31/2011



December Weather Summary

During December, mostly dry weather prevailed from the Pacific Coast into the north central United States. In California and neighboring areas, extremely dry conditions stunted pasture growth and raised concerns about sub-par spring and summer runoff from meager mountain snow packs. On the northern Plains, mild, dry weather left winter wheat exposed to potential weather extremes.

In contrast, widespread precipitation boosted high-elevation snow packs and benefited winter wheat and drought-damaged pastures and rangeland from Arizona to the southern half of the Plains. Wetness also extended into parts of the Midwest, where producers in the eastern Corn Belt continued to wait for fields to freeze before being able to proceed with final corn harvest efforts.

Elsewhere, highly variable conditions existed across the Southeast, ranging from wet weather in the Mid-South to dryness in the southern Atlantic region and along the central Gulf Coast.

December Agricultural Summary

Temperatures from the northern Rocky Mountains to the Southeast and along the Atlantic Coast were well above average during December, giving producers in many areas additional time to complete late-season fieldwork. Most notably, portions of Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota recorded temperatures more than 10 degrees above normal. Elsewhere, fruit and vegetable producers across much of California ran freeze protection late in the month as temperatures dropped into the upper 20s in major producing areas.

Precipitation was well above normal for much of the Corn Belt, Four Corners region, southern Great Plains, and Ohio Valley during the month. In Ohio, topsoil moisture levels were reported as 86 percent surplus on December 11, leaving producers with corn or soybeans still in the fields waiting until the ground froze to continue harvesting their crops.

Late-season row crop harvesting continued in many southern States throughout December, but was mostly complete as the month ended. In Arizona, small grain producers were busy seeding barley and Durum wheat, with nearly half and over one-quarter of the crops in the ground, respectively. Fruit and vegetable producers in the major producing States harvested and shipped a variety of crops throughout the month, with replanting ongoing as conditions allowed.

Crop Comments

Grapefruit: The 2011-2012 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.15 million tons, down 2 percent from the previous forecast and down 9 percent from last season's final utilization. White grapefruit size in Florida is projected to be below average with above average droppage. Colored grapefruit size is projected to be below average with above average droppage.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2011-2012 United States lemon crop is 808,000 tons, down 3 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 14 percent from the previous season's final utilization. Arizona's lemon crop is down 72 percent from last season due to damage from a major freeze in southern Arizona last winter. Harvest continued in California's desert region as well as the San Joaquin Valley.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.10 million boxes (50,000 tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 4 percent from last season's final utilization. Fruit size and droppage are higher than average for the tangelo crop.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 629,000 tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast but unchanged from the 2010-2011 crop. In Florida, the reduced production forecast is primarily due to Honey tangerine sizes, which are expected to be below average with higher than average droppage. California growers saw favorable weather during harvest. In Arizona, the freeze that significantly affected the State's lemon crop did not have as severe of an impact on the tangerines.

Florida citrus: In the citrus growing areas, weather stations reported temperatures ranging from highs in the 80s to lows in the 40s. Sparse rainfall brought dry conditions back to the citrus region this month. Harvesting of early oranges (Navels and Hamlins), white and colored grapefruit, Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines, and Nova Tangelos continued. Production practices included lime application and irrigation as needed.

California citrus: Growers ran freeze protection several nights as temperatures dropped into the upper 20s. Harvest of Satsuma mandarins as well as Owari and Clementine tangerines continued with growers about 50 percent complete in Tulare County. Navel orange harvest continued with reports of improved internal maturity. Cara Cara orange and lemon harvests continued. Oro Blanco and Melogold grapefruit harvests neared completion. Pummelo harvest was underway.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Asian pear and Fuyu and Hachiya persimmon harvests were completed in December. Pineapple quince, fig, and apple harvests continued. Kiwi and Early Wonderful and Wonderful pomegranate harvests finished. Table and wine grape harvests were also completed. Grapevines are dormant and pruning has begun. Heavy frost finished defoliating trees and vines, making pruning easier. Olive harvest finished in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.

The harvest of walnuts was complete. Finished walnut groves were being irrigated, pruned, and sprayed. Almond stockpiles were hulled. The pistachio harvest was over.

Hay stocks on farms: All hay stored on farms December 1, 2011 totaled 90.7 million tons, down 11 percent from a year ago. This is the lowest December 1 stocks on hand for the United States since 1988. Disappearance from May 1, 2011-December 1, 2011 totaled 62.6 million tons, compared with 64.4 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Compared with last year, hay stocks decreased across much of the Nation's midsection. In most cases, these decreases were attributed to an unusually dry year that negatively impacted hay production, as well as pasture and rangeland. Many producers began feeding livestock early to help offset the lack of available feedstuffs.

Stocks on hand were the lowest since 1985 in Oklahoma and Texas, two States that were hit hardest by this year's prolonged drought.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the January 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 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 combined with the previous components are used 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 conducts an objective measurement survey 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 January 1 forecast.

Revision policy: The January 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 January 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the January 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 January 1 orange production forecast is 3.3 percent regardless if you exclude the 3 abnormal production years (1 freeze season and 2 hurricane seasons). 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 3.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.7 percent regardless of whether abnormal seasons are excluded.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 298,000 tons (301,000 tons excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 13,000 tons to 638,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 8 times and above 12 times (below 8 times and above 9 times, excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the January 1 forecast this year is 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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Julie Schmidt – Crop Weather, Barley, Hay	(202) 720-7621
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