



# Crop Production

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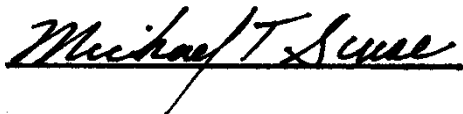
## Orange Production Down 2 Percent from December Forecast

**The United States all orange** forecast for the 2012-2013 season is 8.83 million tons, down 2 percent from both the previous forecast and the 2011-2012 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 142 million boxes (6.39 million tons), is down 3 percent from both the December forecast and last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 66.0 million boxes (2.97 million tons), down 1 percent from the December forecast and down 11 percent from last season. Projected droppage is the highest since the 1969-1970 season while size is projected to be below average. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 76.0 million boxes (3.42 million tons), is down 4 percent from the December forecast but up 5 percent from the 2011-2012 crop.


**Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ)** yield forecast for the 2012-2013 season is 1.61 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from the December forecast but down 1 percent from last season's final yield of 1.63 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.50 gallons per box, down 2 percent from last season's yield of 1.53 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.71 gallons per box, 2 percent lower than last year's final yield of 1.75 gallons per box. All projections of yield assume the processing relationships this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

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This report was approved on January 11, 2013.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Michael T. Scuse



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Hubert Hamer

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## Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop - States and United States: 2011-2012 and Forecasted January 1, 2013

[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 <sup>1</sup>		Utilized production ton equivalent	
	2011-2012 (1,000 boxes)	2012-2013 (1,000 boxes)	2011-2012 (1,000 tons)	2012-2013 (1,000 tons)
<b>Oranges</b>				
Early, mid, and Navel <sup>2</sup>				
California .....	45,500	46,500	1,820	1,860
Florida .....	74,200	66,000	3,339	2,970
Texas .....	1,108	1,220	47	52
United States .....	120,808	113,720	5,206	4,882
Valencia				
California .....	13,500	13,000	540	520
Florida .....	72,400	76,000	3,258	3,420
Texas .....	311	286	13	12
United States .....	86,211	89,286	3,811	3,952
All				
California .....	59,000	59,500	2,360	2,380
Florida .....	146,600	142,000	6,597	6,390
Texas .....	1,419	1,506	60	64
United States .....	207,019	203,006	9,017	8,834
<b>Grapefruit</b>				
White				
Florida .....	5,350	5,000	228	213
Colored				
Florida .....	13,500	13,000	574	553
All				
California .....	4,400	4,000	176	160
Florida .....	18,850	18,000	802	766
Texas .....	4,800	5,280	192	211
United States .....	28,050	27,280	1,170	1,137
<b>Tangerines and mandarins</b>				
Arizona <sup>3</sup> .....	200	200	8	8
California <sup>3</sup> .....	10,900	11,800	436	472
Florida .....	4,290	3,800	204	181
United States .....	15,390	15,800	648	661
<b>Lemons</b>				
Arizona .....	750	1,800	30	72
California .....	20,500	20,500	820	820
United States .....	21,250	22,300	850	892
<b>Tangelos</b>				
Florida .....	1,150	1,100	52	50

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Includes tangelos and tangors.

## Hay Stocks on Farms – States and United States: May 1 and December 1, 2011 and 2012

State	May 1		December 1	
	2011 (1,000 tons)	2012 (1,000 tons)	2011 (1,000 tons)	2012 (1,000 tons)
Alabama .....	187	269	1,385	1,620
Arizona .....	40	35	250	240
Arkansas .....	380	340	1,550	1,150
California .....	160	240	1,640	1,900
Colorado .....	450	230	1,800	1,600
Connecticut .....	12	12	55	52
Delaware .....	3	4	13	17
Florida .....	45	42	400	470
Georgia .....	188	169	800	1,200
Idaho .....	280	700	2,000	2,100
Illinois .....	320	300	980	1,050
Indiana .....	225	165	1,300	900
Iowa .....	610	500	2,750	1,840
Kansas .....	1,000	650	3,900	3,000
Kentucky .....	799	775	3,840	3,400
Louisiana .....	110	70	540	905
Maine .....	23	35	133	127
Maryland .....	65	80	360	310
Massachusetts .....	10	15	71	81
Michigan .....	420	360	1,500	850
Minnesota .....	810	900	3,800	2,800
Mississippi .....	137	251	1,486	1,365
Missouri .....	1,325	1,025	5,450	4,600
Montana .....	1,300	1,550	4,900	3,800
Nebraska .....	1,335	1,070	4,275	3,050
Nevada .....	46	238	830	650
New Hampshire .....	6	13	49	49
New Jersey .....	17	12	81	119
New Mexico .....	100	120	575	600
New York .....	273	327	1,800	1,800
North Carolina .....	253	369	1,175	1,200
North Dakota .....	1,250	1,700	6,100	4,500
Ohio .....	390	308	1,778	1,200
Oklahoma .....	1,200	500	2,800	2,900
Oregon .....	280	275	2,200	1,700
Pennsylvania .....	340	450	1,950	1,700
Rhode Island .....	1	1	8	7
South Carolina .....	110	80	400	440
South Dakota .....	1,850	2,400	8,400	4,300
Tennessee .....	746	716	3,101	2,700
Texas .....	2,500	950	3,800	6,100
Utah .....	144	350	1,420	900
Vermont .....	48	45	215	200
Virginia .....	402	900	2,500	2,300
Washington .....	350	230	1,460	1,200
West Virginia .....	190	285	953	795
Wisconsin .....	1,122	925	2,653	1,810
Wyoming .....	365	400	1,300	950
United States .....	22,217	21,381	90,726	76,547

## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2012 and 2013

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	3,637		3,244	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	97,155		87,375	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		7,379	
Hay, all .....	(NA)		56,260	
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		17,292	
All other .....	(NA)		38,968	
Oats .....	2,760		1,045	
Proso millet .....	335		205	
Rice .....	2,699		2,678	
Rye .....	1,300		248	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	6,244		4,955	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		363	
Wheat, all .....	55,736		48,991	
Winter .....	41,324	41,820	34,834	
Durum .....	2,123		2,102	
Other spring .....	12,289		12,055	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	1,765.0		1,729.0	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed .....	344		336	
Mustard seed .....	51.1		49.7	
Peanuts .....	1,638.0		1,608.0	
Rapeseed .....	2.2		2.1	
Safflower .....	169.8		160.1	
Soybeans for beans .....	77,198		76,104	
Sunflower .....	1,919.0		1,841.0	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all .....	12,315.4		9,426.8	
Upland .....	12,077.0		9,190.0	
American Pima .....	238.4		236.8	
Sugarbeets .....	1,230.1		1,204.2	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		899.0	
Tobacco .....	(NA)		336.2	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	19.0		13.7	
Dry edible beans .....	1,742.5		1,690.4	
Dry edible peas .....	649.0		621.0	
Lentils .....	463.0		450.0	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		6.1	
Hops .....	(NA)		31.9	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		76.0	
Potatoes, all .....	1,148.3		1,132.7	
Spring .....	96.8		94.6	
Summer .....	49.8		48.5	
Fall .....	1,001.7		989.6	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		20.0	
Sweet potatoes .....	130.5		126.6	
Taro (Hawaii) <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)		0.4	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2012 and 2013 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
			(1,000)	(1,000)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	bushels	67.9	220,284	
Corn for grain .....	bushels	123.4	10,780,296	
Corn for silage .....	tons	15.4	113,450	
Hay, all .....	tons	2.13	119,878	
Alfalfa .....	tons	3.01	52,049	
All other .....	tons	1.74	67,829	
Oats .....	bushels	61.3	64,024	
Proso millet .....	bushels	15.1	3,090	
Rice <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	7,449	199,479	
Rye .....	bushels	28.0	6,944	
Sorghum for grain .....	bushels	49.8	246,932	
Sorghum for silage .....	tons	11.4	4,135	
Wheat, all .....	bushels	46.3	2,269,117	
Winter .....	bushels	47.2	1,645,202	
Durum .....	bushels	39.0	81,956	
Other spring .....	bushels	45.0	541,959	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	pounds	1,416	2,447,410	
Cottonseed .....	tons	(X)	5,759.0	
Flaxseed .....	bushels	17.1	5,762	
Mustard seed .....	pounds	602	29,930	
Peanuts .....	pounds	4,192	6,741,400	
Rapeseed .....	pounds	2,205	4,630	
Safflower .....	pounds	1,121	179,424	
Soybeans for beans .....	bushels	39.6	3,014,998	
Sunflower .....	pounds	1,513	2,785,695	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	866	17,009.9	
Upland <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	849	16,250.0	
American Pima <sup>3</sup> .....	bales	1,540	759.9	
Sugarbeets .....	tons	29.3	35,236	
Sugarcane .....	tons	36.3	32,637	
Tobacco .....	pounds	2,268	762,441	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,219	167	
Dry edible beans <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,889	31,925	
Dry edible peas <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,751	10,872	
Lentils <sup>3</sup> .....	cwt	1,178	5,302	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	cwt	(NA)	406	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	pounds	1,180	7,200	
Hops .....	pounds	1,918	61,249.2	
Peppermint oil .....	pounds	87	6,605	
Potatoes, all .....	cwt	412	467,126	
Spring .....	cwt	283	26,736	
Summer .....	cwt	368	17,855	
Fall .....	cwt	427	422,535	
Spearmint oil .....	pounds	120	2,390	
Sweet potatoes .....	cwt	209	26,482	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	pounds	(NA)	3,400	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>2</sup> Area is total acres in crop, not harvested acres.

<sup>3</sup> Yield in pounds.

## Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2012 and 2013

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	1,471,860		1,312,810	
Corn for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	39,317,660		35,359,790	
Corn for silage .....	(NA)		2,986,210	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)		22,767,860	
Alfalfa .....	(NA)		6,997,900	
All other .....	(NA)		15,769,960	
Oats .....	1,116,940		422,900	
Proso millet .....	135,570		82,960	
Rice .....	1,092,260		1,083,760	
Rye .....	526,100		100,360	
Sorghum for grain <sup>1</sup> .....	2,526,880		2,005,240	
Sorghum for silage .....	(NA)		146,900	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	22,555,800		19,826,170	
Winter .....	16,723,410	16,924,140	14,096,970	
Durum .....	859,160		850,660	
Other spring .....	4,973,240		4,878,540	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	714,280		699,710	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed .....	139,210		135,980	
Mustard seed .....	20,680		20,110	
Peanuts .....	662,880		650,740	
Rapeseed .....	890		850	
Safflower .....	68,720		64,790	
Soybeans for beans .....	31,241,260		30,798,530	
Sunflower .....	776,600		745,030	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	4,983,920		3,814,930	
Upland .....	4,887,440		3,719,100	
American Pima .....	96,480		95,830	
Sugarbeets .....	497,810		487,330	
Sugarcane .....	(NA)		363,820	
Tobacco .....	(NA)		136,070	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	7,690		5,540	
Dry edible beans .....	705,170		684,090	
Dry edible peas .....	262,640		251,310	
Lentils .....	187,370		182,110	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		(NA)	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		2,470	
Hops .....	(NA)		12,920	
Peppermint oil .....	(NA)		30,760	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	464,710		458,390	
Spring .....	39,170		38,280	
Summer .....	20,150		19,630	
Fall .....	405,380		400,480	
Spearmint oil .....	(NA)		8,090	
Sweet potatoes .....	52,810		51,230	
Taro (Hawaii) <sup>3</sup> .....	(NA)		160	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States:  
2012 and 2013 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
<b>Grains and hay</b>				
Barley .....	3.65		4,796,120	
Corn for grain .....	7.74		273,832,130	
Corn for silage .....	34.47		102,920,110	
Hay, all <sup>2</sup> .....	4.78		108,751,490	
Alfalfa .....	6.75		47,218,060	
All other .....	3.90		61,533,430	
Oats .....	2.20		929,310	
Proso millet .....	0.84		70,080	
Rice .....	8.35		9,048,220	
Rye .....	1.76		176,390	
Sorghum for grain .....	3.13		6,272,360	
Sorghum for silage .....	25.54		3,751,210	
Wheat, all <sup>2</sup> .....	3.11		61,755,240	
Winter .....	3.18		44,775,060	
Durum .....	2.62		2,230,480	
Other spring .....	3.02		14,749,710	
<b>Oilseeds</b>				
Canola .....	1.59		1,110,130	
Cottonseed .....	(X)		5,224,480	
Flaxseed .....	1.08		146,360	
Mustard seed .....	0.67		13,580	
Peanuts .....	4.70		3,057,850	
Rapeseed .....	2.47		2,100	
Safflower .....	1.26		81,390	
Soybeans for beans .....	2.66		82,054,800	
Sunflower .....	1.70		1,263,570	
<b>Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops</b>				
Cotton, all <sup>2</sup> .....	0.97		3,703,470	
Upland .....	0.95		3,538,020	
American Pima .....	1.73		165,450	
Sugarbeets .....	65.59		31,965,560	
Sugarcane .....	81.38		29,607,790	
Tobacco .....	2.54		345,840	
<b>Dry beans, peas, and lentils</b>				
Austrian winter peas .....	1.37		7,570	
Dry edible beans .....	2.12		1,448,090	
Dry edible peas .....	1.96		493,150	
Lentils .....	1.32		240,490	
Wrinkled seed peas .....	(NA)		18,420	
<b>Potatoes and miscellaneous</b>				
Coffee (Hawaii) .....	1.32		3,270	
Hops .....	2.15		27,780	
Peppermint oil .....	0.10		3,000	
Potatoes, all <sup>2</sup> .....	46.22		21,188,480	
Spring .....	31.68		1,212,720	
Summer .....	41.26		809,890	
Fall .....	47.86		19,165,870	
Spearmint oil .....	0.13		1,080	
Sweet potatoes .....	23.45		1,201,200	
Taro (Hawaii) .....	(NA)		1,540	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Area planted for all purposes.

<sup>2</sup> Total may not add due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Area is total hectares in crop, not harvested hectares.

## Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2012 and 2013 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2012-2013 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2012 (1,000)	2013 (1,000)
<b>Citrus <sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit .....	1,170	1,137
Lemons .....	850	892
Oranges .....	9,017	8,834
Tangelos (Florida) .....	52	50
Tangerines and mandarins .....	648	661
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples ..... 1,000 pounds	8,065.7	
Apricots .....	67.8	
Bananas (Hawaii) .....		
Grapes .....	7,296.8	
Olives (California) .....		
Papayas (Hawaii) .....		
Peaches .....	1,023.3	
Pears .....	878.5	
Prunes, dried (California) .....		
Prunes and plums (excludes California) .....		
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) .....	2,100,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) .....	40.0	
Pecans, in-shell .....	308,600	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) .....	470	
Maple syrup .....	1,908	

<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

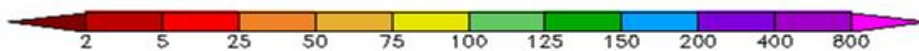
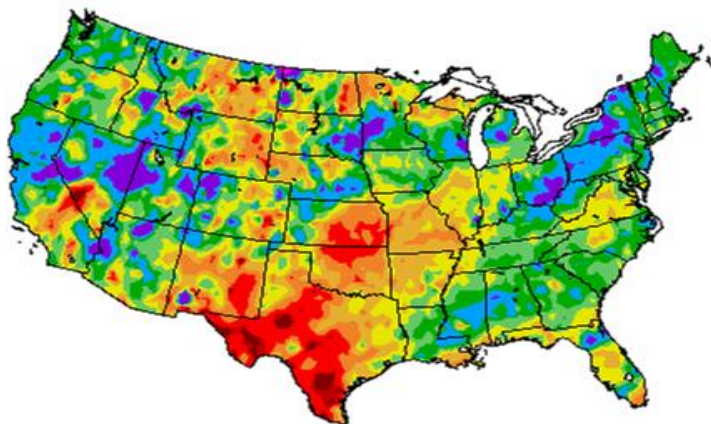
## Fruits and Nuts Production – United States: 2012 and 2013 (Metric Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2013 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2012-2013 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2012 (metric tons)	2013 (metric tons)
<b>Citrus <sup>1</sup></b>		
Grapefruit .....	1,061,410	1,031,470
Lemons .....	771,110	809,210
Oranges .....	8,180,080	8,014,070
Tangelos (Florida) .....	47,170	45,360
Tangerines and mandarins .....	587,860	599,650
<b>Noncitrus</b>		
Apples .....	3,658,540	
Apricots .....	61,490	
Bananas (Hawaii) .....		
Grapes .....	6,619,550	
Olives (California) .....		
Papayas (Hawaii) .....		
Peaches .....	928,320	
Pears .....	796,960	
Prunes, dried (California) .....		
Prunes and plums (excludes California) .....		
<b>Nuts and miscellaneous</b>		
Almonds, shelled (California) .....	952,540	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) .....	36,290	
Pecans, in-shell .....	139,980	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) .....	426,380	
Maple syrup .....	9,540	

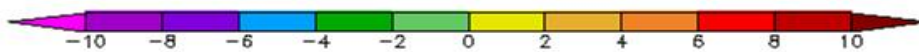
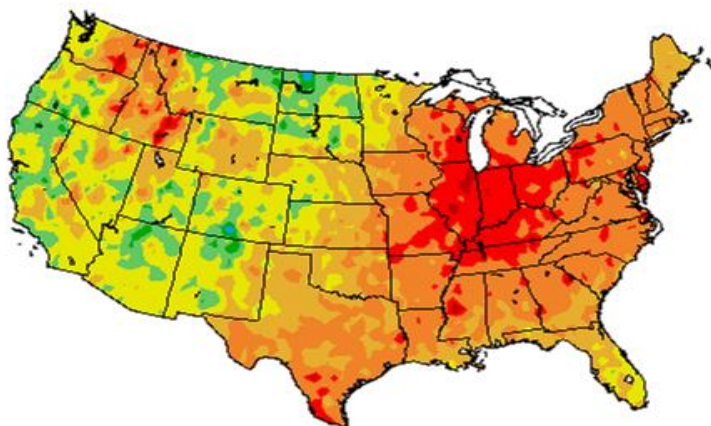
<sup>1</sup> Production years are 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
12/1/2012 – 12/31/2012



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/1/2012 – 12/31/2012



Regional Climate Centers

## December Weather Summary

Despite occasional December precipitation across the Nation's mid-section, hard red winter wheat conditions remained mostly steady or declined due to poor crop establishment and acute soil moisture shortages. In addition, drought intensified across southern portions of the Plains, especially from southern Texas into eastern Kansas. By December 30, the portion of the Plains' wheat rated in very poor to poor condition included 61 percent in Oklahoma, 49 percent in Nebraska, and 31 percent in Kansas. However, enough snow fell across the northern and central Plains to provide some degree of insulation from temperatures that locally and periodically fell to -10 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.

In contrast, significant precipitation fell in much of the soft red winter wheat belt, particularly across the Ohio Valley. As a result, most of the wheat continued to thrive across the Mid-South and lower Midwest. By month's end, 70 percent of the Illinois wheat crop was rated good to excellent. In both the Ohio Valley and the upper Midwest, enough of December's precipitation fell in the frozen form to establish a substantial snow cover.

Meanwhile, widespread precipitation also fell in much of the East, although rain was spotty across Florida. Some of the heaviest precipitation, relative to normal, fell across the Northeast and from the central Gulf Coast into the southern Appalachians.

Elsewhere, much of the West experienced unsettled weather during December. Precipitation was especially heavy from northern California into the Intermountain West. For example, the average water content of the high-elevation Sierra Nevada snow pack increased by 10 inches during the month, reaching 14 inches (137 percent of normal) by the end of December.

The Nation's winter agricultural regions escaped significant freezes during December, although there were several chilly mornings - particularly from December 19-21 - in California and the Desert Southwest. Florida's coldest morning, for the most part, occurred on December 23. Overall, December temperatures were highly variable in the West but mostly above normal across the eastern half of the Nation. Western temperatures were influenced by snow cover, mainly in parts of the Intermountain region.

## December Agricultural Summary

Temperatures from the Great Plains eastward were well above normal during December, allowing producers with unharvested crops additional time to complete fieldwork while aiding the establishment of winter wheat. Most notably, temperatures for an area centered over the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley averaged more than 6 degrees above normal. In the West, monthly temperatures were near-normal. Precipitation totals for the Nation varied drastically during the December. Much of the southern Great Plains accumulated rain and snow totaling less than 25 percent of normal, while portions of Great Basin and Northeast received more than 200 percent of their normal precipitation.

In the South, a variety of producer activities were ongoing throughout the month. Barley and Durum wheat were sown in Arizona, as cotton producers finished harvesting their crop. Growers in Texas readied fields for spring planting following the completion of cotton harvesting and small grain seeding. Elsewhere, general equipment and field maintenance was completed as conditions allowed. 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.

Unfavorably dry conditions led to further deterioration of winter wheat in some areas. By December 30, the portion of the Plains' wheat rated in very poor to poor condition included 61 percent in Oklahoma, 49 percent in Nebraska, and 31 percent in Kansas. Conversely, increased moisture in areas of the Corn Belt benefitted not only winter wheat, but helped to somewhat replenish soil moisture levels as producers begin to plan for the 2013 crop season.

## Crop Comments

**Grapefruit:** The 2012-2013 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.14 million tons, unchanged from the December forecast but down 3 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, droppage is expected to be above average for both white and colored grapefruit, while the average size is projected to be smaller than normal for both types.

**Lemons:** The forecast for the 2012-2013 United States lemon crop is 892,000 tons, up slightly from the October forecast and up 5 percent from last season's final utilization. Arizona's lemon crop is forecast to be up 140 percent from last season's freeze reduced crop. Lemon harvest continued in both Arizona and California.

**Tangelos:** Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.10 million boxes (50,000 tons), unchanged from the December forecast but down 4 percent from last season's final utilization. Fruit size is projected to be below average with above average droppage.

**Tangerines and mandarins:** The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 661,000 tons, unchanged from the December forecast but up 2 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, sizes for all varieties of tangerines are expected to be below average with above average droppage.

**Florida citrus:** In the citrus growing areas, weather stations reported high temperatures ranging from the mid 70s to low 80s. Lows reached the low 30's in places, but avoided fruit damaging levels. Rainfall was moderate, but widespread across the citrus producing region for most of the month. Harvesting of early and mid oranges and grapefruit was well underway. Harvesting, mowing, and general grove maintenance were the primary grove activities.

**California citrus:** The citrus crop was not affected by the late December cold snap. Satsuma mandarin, Owari, and Clementine tangerine harvests continued. Navel orange harvest also continued as the cooler weather improved external maturity. Cara Cara orange, hybrid grapefruit, lime, and lemon harvests were ongoing.

**California noncitrus fruits and nuts:** Asian pear and Fuyu and Hachiya persimmon harvests were completed in December. Pineapple quinces, figs, and apples continued to be harvested. Early Wonderful and Wonderful pomegranate varieties as well as kiwi harvest were finished. Table and wine grape harvests were complete. Grapevines were dormant and pruning was ongoing. The olive harvest was complete in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.

The harvest of walnuts was complete and groves were being irrigated, pruned and sprayed. Nut crops were being sprayed with dormant sprays. Bees were being brought in from out of state in preparation for almond bloom.

**Hay stocks on farms:** All hay stored on farms December 1, 2012 totaled 76.5 million tons, down 16 percent from a year ago. This is the lowest December 1 stocks level since 1957. Disappearance from May 1, 2012 - December 1, 2012 totaled 64.7 million tons, compared with 62.7 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Compared with last year, hay stocks as a percent of production decreased throughout much of the western United States. Prolonged dryness coupled with hot temperatures stifled not only pasture and range growth, but growth of alfalfa fields as well. As a result, overall hay production was negatively impacted in many States. In addition, livestock producers were forced to feed their herds earlier than normal due to the diminished availability of native feedstuffs.

Elsewhere, the increase in on-farm stocks as a percent of production across much of the Northern Tier resulted mostly from producers holding a larger portion of their 2011 hay crop in storage due to an unusually mild winter and earlier availability of spring pastures. Similarly, hay stock levels were higher than last year in many Atlantic Coast States.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey procedures:** The orange objective yield survey for the January 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 72 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 3.1 percent regardless if you exclude the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two 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 3.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.3 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 279,000 tons regardless of whether abnormal seasons are excluded, 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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Brent Chittenden – Oats, Rye, Wheat .....	(202) 720-8068
Angie Considine – Peanuts, Rice .....	(202) 720-7688
Steve Maliszewski – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Anthony Prillaman – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet .....	(202) 720-9526
Julie Schmidt – Crop Weather, Barley, Hay .....	(202) 720-7621
Travis Thorson – Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369
Jorge Garcia-Pratts, Head, Fruits, Vegetables and Special Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
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Fred Granja – Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Plums, Prunes, Tobacco .....	(202) 720-4288
Chris Hawthorn – Citrus, Coffee, Grapes, Sugar Crops, Tropical Fruits.....	(202) 720-5412
Dave Losh – Hops .....	(360) 709-2400
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Daphne Schauber – Berries, Cranberries, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes .....	(202) 720-4285
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