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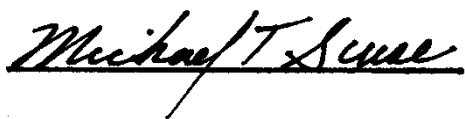
Orange Production Down 1 Percent from February

The United States all orange forecast for the 2012-2013 season is 8.68 million tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 4 percent from the 2011-2012 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 139 million boxes (6.26 million tons), is down 1 percent from the February forecast and down 5 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 67.0 million boxes (3.02 million tons), up 2 percent from the February forecast but down 10 percent from last season. This increase was based on utilization data as of March 1. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 72.0 million boxes (3.24 million tons), is down 4 percent from the February forecast due to a sharp increase in droppage.

The California Valencia orange forecast is 12.5 million boxes (500,000 tons), down 4 percent from the previous forecast. This brings California's all orange forecast to 59.0 million boxes (2.36 million tons), down 1 percent from the January forecast. Objective survey measurements taken during January and February indicated that fruit set per tree was higher than the previous year, but measured average fruit size was smaller than the previous year. The forecast for Texas is carried forward from January.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2012-2013 season is 1.61 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 1 percent from the January forecast and down 1 percent from last season's final yield of 1.63 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.51 gallons per box, down 1 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.

This report was approved on March 8, 2013.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Michael T. Scuse



Agricultural Statistics Board
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Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

Use and State	Area harvested		Yield per acre ¹		Production ¹	
	2011 (1,000 acres)	2012 (1,000 acres)	2011 (tons)	2012 (tons)	2011 (1,000 tons)	2012 (1,000 tons)
For sugar						
Florida	380.0	390.0	37.5	36.9	14,250	14,391
Hawaii ²	15.1	15.5	85.2	84.8	1,287	1,314
Louisiana ²	385.0	400.0	27.6	33.0	10,626	13,200
Texas ²	47.0	43.0	33.5	35.9	1,575	1,544
United States	827.1	848.5	33.5	35.9	27,738	30,449
For seed						
Florida	17.0	17.0	40.0	42.9	680	729
Hawaii ²	1.5	1.5	30.0	30.0	45	45
Louisiana ²	25.0	28.0	27.6	33.0	690	924
Texas ²	2.0	1.0	35.5	32.0	71	32
United States	45.5	47.5	32.7	36.4	1,486	1,730
For sugar and seed						
Florida	397.0	407.0	37.6	37.1	14,930	15,120
Hawaii ²	16.6	17.0	80.2	79.9	1,332	1,359
Louisiana ²	410.0	428.0	27.6	33.0	11,316	14,124
Texas ²	49.0	44.0	33.6	35.8	1,646	1,576
United States	872.6	896.0	33.5	35.9	29,224	32,179

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the *Crop Production 2012 Summary* released January 2013.

Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2011-2012 and Forecasted March 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 ¹		Utilized production ton equivalent	
	2011-2012	2012-2013	2011-2012	2012-2013
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Oranges				
Early, mid, and Navel ²				
California ³	45,500	46,500	1,820	1,860
Florida	74,200	67,000	3,339	3,015
Texas ³	1,108	1,220	47	52
United States	120,808	114,720	5,206	4,927
Valencia				
California	13,500	12,500	540	500
Florida	72,400	72,000	3,258	3,240
Texas ³	311	286	13	12
United States	86,211	84,786	3,811	3,752
All				
California	59,000	59,000	2,360	2,360
Florida	146,600	139,000	6,597	6,255
Texas ³	1,419	1,506	60	64
United States	207,019	199,506	9,017	8,679
Grapefruit				
White				
Florida	5,350	4,500	228	191
Colored				
Florida	13,500	12,500	574	531
All				
California ³	4,400	4,000	176	160
Florida	18,850	17,000	802	722
Texas ³	4,800	5,280	192	211
United States	28,050	26,280	1,170	1,093
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ^{3 4}	200	200	8	8
California ^{3 4}	10,900	11,800	436	472
Florida	4,290	3,700	204	176
United States	15,390	15,700	648	656
Lemons ³				
Arizona	750	1,800	30	72
California	20,500	20,500	820	820
United States	21,250	22,300	850	892
Tangelos				
Florida	1,150	1,000	52	45

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 Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

⁴ Includes tangelos and tangors.

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)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3,637		3,244	
Corn for grain ¹	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 ¹	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	
Oilseeds				
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	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
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)		896.0	
Tobacco	(NA)		336.2	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
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)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
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) ²	(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)
Grains and hay				
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 ³	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	
Oilseeds				
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	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ³	bales	866	17,009.9	
Upland ³	bales	849	16,250.0	
American Pima ³	bales	1,540	759.9	
Sugarbeets	tons	29.3	35,236	
Sugarcane	tons	35.9	32,179	
Tobacco	pounds	2,268	762,441	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas ³	cwt	1,219	167	
Dry edible beans ³	cwt	1,889	31,925	
Dry edible peas ³	cwt	1,751	10,872	
Lentils ³	cwt	1,178	5,302	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)	406	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
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.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

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

³ 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)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,471,860		1,312,810	
Corn for grain ¹	39,317,660		35,359,790	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,986,210	
Hay, all ²	(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 ¹	2,526,880		2,005,240	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		146,900	
Wheat, all ²	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	
Oilseeds				
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	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	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)		362,600	
Tobacco	(NA)		136,070	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
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)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		2,470	
Hops	(NA)		12,920	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		30,760	
Potatoes, all ²	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) ³	(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)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.65		4,796,120	
Corn for grain	7.74		273,832,130	
Corn for silage	34.47		102,920,110	
Hay, all ²	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 ²	3.11		61,755,240	
Winter	3.18		44,775,060	
Durum	2.62		2,230,480	
Other spring	3.02		14,749,710	
Oilseeds				
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	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	0.97		3,703,470	
Upland	0.95		3,538,020	
American Pima	1.73		165,450	
Sugarbeets	65.59		31,965,560	
Sugarcane	80.51		29,192,300	
Tobacco	2.54		345,840	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
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	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	1.32		3,270	
Hops	2.15		27,780	
Peppermint oil	0.10		3,000	
Potatoes, all ²	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.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

² Total may not add due to rounding.

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

Fruits and Nuts 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, except citrus which is for the 2012-2013 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2012	2013
	(1,000)	(1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruittons	1,170	1,093
Lemonstons	850	892
Orangestons	9,017	8,679
Tangelos (Florida)tons	52	45
Tangerines and mandarinstons	648	656
Noncitrus		
Apples 1,000 pounds	9,061.1	
Apricotstons	60.8	
Bananas (Hawaii)pounds		
Grapestons	7,343.4	
Olives (California)tons	160.0	
Papayas (Hawaii)pounds		
Peachestons	978.3	
Pearstons	858.2	
Prunes, dried (California)tons	125.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)tons	13.2	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)pounds	2,000,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)tons	34.7	
Pecans, in-shellpounds	302,800	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)tons	470	
Maple syrupgallons	1,908	

¹ Production years are 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

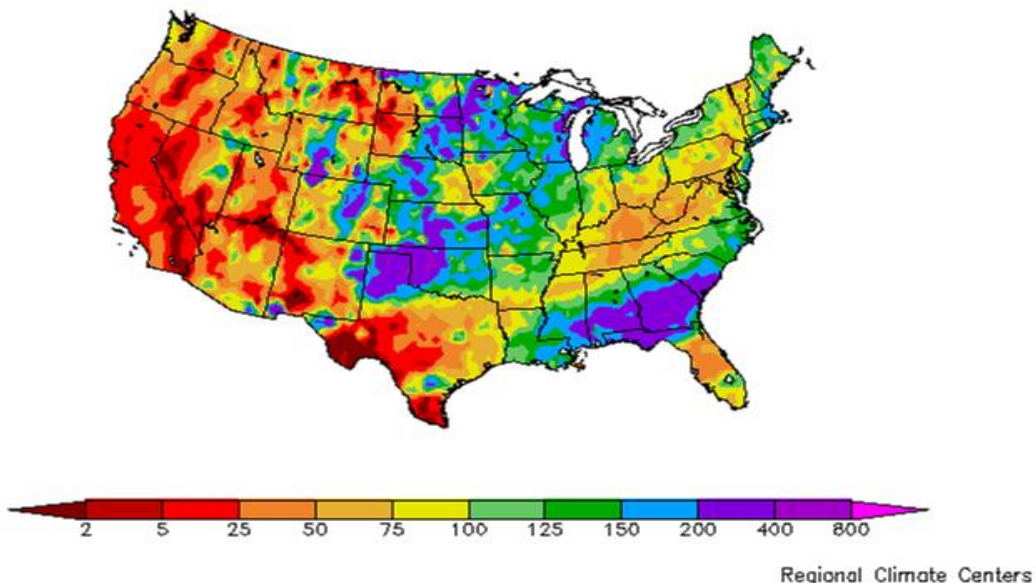
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2012 and 2013

[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, except citrus which is for the 2012-2013 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

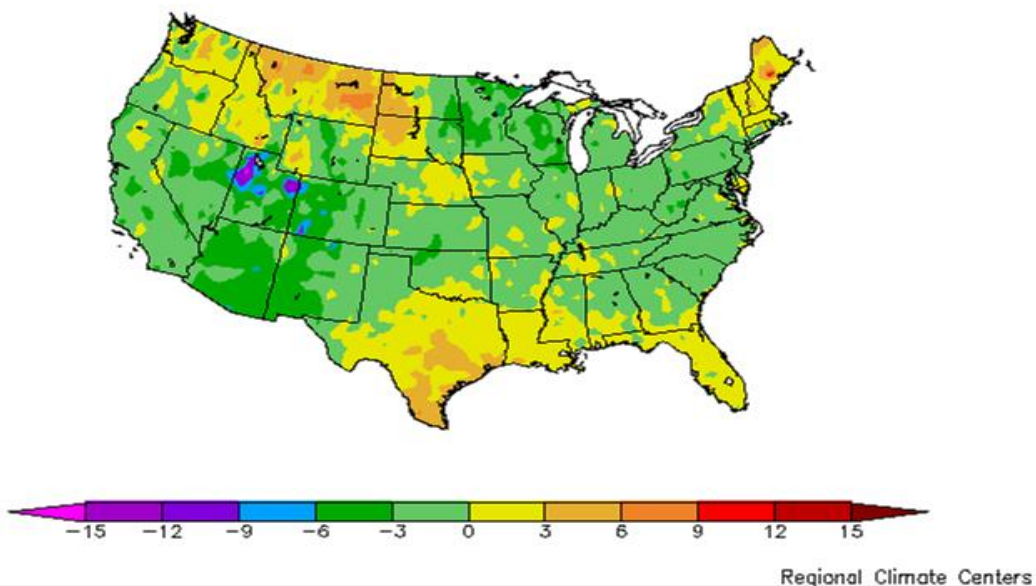
Crop	Production	
	2012 (metric tons)	2013 (metric tons)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	1,061,410	991,550
Lemons	771,110	809,210
Oranges	8,180,080	7,873,460
Tangelos (Florida)	47,170	40,820
Tangerines and mandarins	587,860	595,110
Noncitrus		
Apples	4,110,050	
Apricots	55,160	
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes	6,661,820	
Olives (California)	145,150	
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches	887,460	
Pears	778,580	
Prunes, dried (California)	113,400	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)	12,010	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	907,180	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	31,480	
Pecans, in-shell	137,350	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	426,380	
Maple syrup	9,540	

¹ Production years are 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
2/1/2013 - 2/28/2013



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/1/2013 - 2/28/2013



February Weather Summary

For many areas east of the Rockies, particularly across the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic States, February was the coldest month during the winter of 2012-13. Conversely, warmth continued across the Deep South, from southern Texas to Florida's peninsula, where some early planting activities and blooming were noted by the end of February.

February precipitation highlights included heavy rain in the lower Southeast and several late-winter storms across the Plains and Midwest. Southeastern storms led to some record-high February precipitation totals and lowland flooding; however, rainfall largely bypassed Florida's peninsula - where producers continued to irrigate citrus and other crops.

Across the Plains and Midwest, the most intense storms struck during the second half of the month, from February 20-22 and 25-27. Both late-month storms produced heavy, wind-driven snow in various parts of the central and southern Plains and Midwest, stressing livestock and disrupting travel, but providing beneficial topsoil moisture and insulation for rangeland, pastures, and winter wheat.

Elsewhere, drier-than-normal weather dominated across southern Texas and nearly all areas west of the Rockies during February. In fact, disappointing amounts of precipitation have fallen across much of the West since the beginning of 2013, diminishing prospects for spring and summer runoff and increasing water supply concerns from California to the central and southern Rockies.

February Agricultural Summary

Near-normal temperatures blanketed much of the United States during February; however, beginning mid-month, a series of strong cold fronts delivered sub-freezing temperatures to many regions. Conversely, portions of Montana and New England recorded monthly temperatures averaging more than 6 degrees above normal. For much of the West, February was a relatively dry month, compounding the effects of preexisting soil moisture shortages. Monthly precipitation in portions of the northern Rocky Mountains and Southwest totaled less than 2 percent of normal. Elsewhere, beneficial rain and snow aided developing small grain crops in the central and southern Great Plains, as well as in the Southeast.

Mild temperatures coupled with mostly dry conditions allowed producers in the southern half of the country ample time to prepare farm equipment and fields for spring planting. Hay was steadily harvested from more than half of Arizona's alfalfa fields throughout the month. In Texas, row crop producers in the Plains regions applied fertilizers and herbicides ahead of forecasted precipitation, while dry conditions in the Edward's Plateau and South Central regions delayed cotton planting. Sugarcane harvest continued in Florida and Texas throughout the month.

Late-month storms delivered much-needed moisture to the hard red winter wheat growing region in the central and southern Great Plains, helping to improve crop condition. On February 24, thirty-six percent of Kansas' winter wheat was reported in very poor to poor condition, compared with 39 percent on January 27. Additionally, 86 percent of the crop was free of freeze damage following cold temperatures toward month's end despite limited snow cover. Fifty-four percent of the wheat crop in Oklahoma was reported in very poor to poor condition on February 24, compared with 69 percent on January 27. In California, small grain crops in southern locations were irrigated due to unfavorably dry conditions, while cool weather limited crop growth in northern portions of the State.

Warm temperatures in Florida prompted an early-month start to bud swell and bloom development in early variety tree fruit crops. Elsewhere, citrus producers in the San Joaquin Valley used wind machines and irrigation to protect their crops as overnight temperatures dipped to near freezing. Florida's early and mid-season citrus harvest neared completion mid-month, as the Valencia harvest gained speed toward month's end. General orchard and grove maintenance was ongoing throughout February.

Crop Comments

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2012 is estimated at 32.2 million tons, of which 30.4 million tons was utilized for sugar and 1.73 million tons for seed. Total production for sugar and seed is down 1 percent from

February but up 10 percent from 2011. Sugarcane producers harvested 896,000 acres for sugar and seed in 2012, down 3,000 acres from the February forecast. Yield for sugar and seed is estimated at 35.9 tons per acre, down 0.4 ton from February. In Florida, harvest continued with very few weather interruptions. Estimates for Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas were carried forward from January.

Grapefruit: The 2012-2013 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.09 million tons, down 4 percent from the February forecast and down 7 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, droppage for both white and colored grapefruit is expected to be the highest of any season not affected by a freeze or hurricane. The average size is expected to be the smallest since the 1968-1969 season. The row count survey conducted February 26-27 in Florida indicated that 30 percent of the white grapefruit and 50 percent of the colored grapefruit had been harvested. California and Texas grapefruit production forecasts are carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 1.00 million boxes (45,000 tons), unchanged from the February forecast but down 13 percent from last season's final utilization. Florida's row count survey conducted February 26-27 showed 99 percent of the rows were harvested.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 656,000 tons, unchanged from the February forecast but up 1 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. Arizona and California estimates are carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Florida citrus: In the citrus growing region, high temperatures for the month were in the mid 70s to low 80s. Lows reached the upper 20s in the northern areas, but no damage was reported. Rainfall was sparse, worsening the drought conditions in nearly all of the citrus producing regions. Harvesting of early and mid oranges neared completion. Harvesting of grapefruit, tangelos, and tangerines continued, while the Valencia harvest began. Harvesting, mowing, and general grove maintenance were the primary grove activities.

California citrus: Early in the month, citrus growers had to protect groves from frost at night. Isolated reports of freeze damage in Navels and other citrus varieties were reported. Harvest of Navel oranges, lemons, and Mandarins continued. Grapefruit harvest slowed. Valencia orange harvest is expected to begin soon.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Peach, prune, and other stone fruit orchards were irrigated, pruned, and planted. Bloom began in early varieties of plums, pluots, nectarines, and peaches. Fungicide applications were ongoing in late season varieties. Dormant spraying was ongoing in cherries. Pruning finished for grapes and kiwi orchards, while it was ongoing for olives. Strawberries and blueberries continued to develop, benefitting from the warmer temperatures. Hass avocado harvest continued. Almond bloom began. Nut orchards were irrigated. Pre-emergent spraying, planting, and pruning continued in walnut and pistachio orchards.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the March 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which accounts for nearly 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 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 1.9 percent regardless if you exclude the three abnormal production seasons (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 1.9 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.3 percent, or 3.2 percent when excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 174,000 tons (177,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 13,000 tons to 503,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The March 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 10 times and above 10 times (below 9 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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