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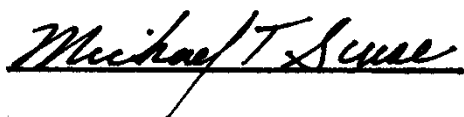
Orange Production Down Slightly from February Forecast

The United States all orange forecast for the 2013-2014 season is 7.37 million tons, down slightly from the previous forecast and down 12 percent from the 2012-2013 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 114 million boxes (5.13 million tons), is down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 15 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 53.0 million boxes (2.39 million tons), down 2 percent from the previous forecast and down 21 percent from last season. The Row Count Survey conducted February 25-26, 2014 showed about 98 percent of the Early-Midseason rows had been harvested. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 61.0 million boxes (2.75 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 8 percent from last season's final utilization.

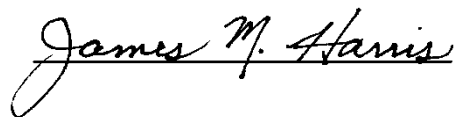
The California Valencia orange forecast is 12.0 million boxes (480,000 tons), up 4 percent from the previous forecast. This brings California's all orange forecast to 54.0 million boxes (2.16 million tons), up 1 percent from the January forecast. Objective survey measurements taken during January and February indicated that fruit set per tree was lower than the previous year, but the measured average fruit size was larger than the previous year. The forecast for Texas is carried forward from January.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2013-2014 season is 1.61 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, unchanged from the February forecast but up 1 percent from last season's final yield of 1.59 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 1.69 gallons per box, unchanged from last year's final yield. 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, 2014.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Michael T. Scuse



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
James M. Harris

Contents

Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2012 and 2013	4
Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2012-2013 and Forecasted March 1, 2014	5
Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2013 and 2014.....	6
Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2013 and 2014	8
Fruits and Nuts Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2013 and 2014	10
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2013 and 2014.....	11
Percent of Normal Precipitation Map	12
Departure from Normal Temperature Map.....	12
February Weather Summary	13
February Agricultural Summary	13
Crop Comments	13
Statistical Methodology	15
Information Contacts	16

Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2012 and 2013

Use and State	Area harvested		Yield per acre ¹		Production ¹	
	2012 (1,000 acres)	2013 (1,000 acres)	2012 (tons)	2013 (tons)	2012 (1,000 tons)	2013 (1,000 tons)
For sugar						
Florida	396.0	398.0	36.6	34.6	14,494	13,771
Hawaii ²	15.9	16.0	79.4	85.5	1,262	1,368
Louisiana ²	400.0	410.0	33.0	32.0	13,200	13,120
Texas ²	43.0	34.1	35.9	42.4	1,544	1,446
United States	854.9	858.1	35.7	34.6	30,500	29,705
For seed						
Florida	17.0	16.0	42.7	43.3	726	693
Hawaii ²	1.5	1.5	30.0	30.0	45	45
Louisiana ²	28.0	30.0	33.0	32.0	924	960
Texas ²	1.0	1.0	32.0	37.0	32	37
United States	47.5	48.5	36.4	35.8	1,727	1,735
For sugar and seed						
Florida	413.0	414.0	36.9	34.9	15,220	14,464
Hawaii ²	17.4	17.5	75.1	80.7	1,307	1,413
Louisiana ²	428.0	440.0	33.0	32.0	14,124	14,080
Texas ²	44.0	35.1	35.8	42.3	1,576	1,483
United States	902.4	906.6	35.7	34.7	32,227	31,440

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the *Crop Production 2013 Summary* released January 2014.

Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2012-2013 and Forecasted March 1, 2014

[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	
	2012-2013 (1,000 boxes)	2013-2014 (1,000 boxes)	2012-2013 (1,000 tons)	2013-2014 (1,000 tons)
Oranges				
Early, mid, and Navel ²				
California ³	44,000	42,000	1,760	1,680
Florida	67,100	53,000	3,020	2,385
Texas ³	1,499	1,455	64	62
United States	112,599	96,455	4,844	4,127
Valencia				
California	12,500	12,000	500	480
Florida	66,500	61,000	2,993	2,745
Texas ³	289	370	12	16
United States	79,289	73,370	3,505	3,241
All				
California	56,500	54,000	2,260	2,160
Florida	133,600	114,000	6,013	5,130
Texas ³	1,788	1,825	76	78
United States	191,888	169,825	8,349	7,368
Grapefruit				
White				
Florida	5,250	4,000	223	170
Colored				
Florida	13,100	12,000	557	510
All				
California ³	4,000	4,000	160	160
Florida	18,350	16,000	780	680
Texas ³	6,100	5,370	244	215
United States	28,450	25,370	1,184	1,055
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ^{3 4}	200	200	8	8
California ^{3 4}	13,000	13,200	520	528
Florida	3,280	3,250	156	154
United States	16,480	16,650	684	690
Lemons ³				
Arizona	1,800	1,785	72	71
California	21,000	20,000	840	800
United States	22,800	21,785	912	871
Tangelos				
Florida	1,000	900	45	41

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: 2013 and 2014

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3,480		3,000	
Corn for grain ¹	95,365		87,668	
Corn for silage	(NA)		6,256	
Hay, all	(NA)		58,257	
Alfalfa	(NA)		17,763	
All other	(NA)		40,494	
Oats	3,010		1,030	
Proso millet	720		638	
Rice	2,489		2,468	
Rye	1,446		278	
Sorghum for grain ¹	8,061		6,530	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		380	
Wheat, all	56,156		45,157	
Winter	43,090	41,892	32,402	
Durum	1,470		1,421	
Other spring	11,596		11,334	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,348.0		1,264.5	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	181		172	
Mustard seed	45.0		43.4	
Peanuts	1,067.0		1,042.0	
Rapeseed	1.7		1.7	
Safflower	175.5		170.0	
Soybeans for beans	76,533		75,869	
Sunflower	1,575.5		1,474.6	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	10,407.0		7,664.4	
Upland	10,206.0		7,465.0	
American Pima	201.0		199.4	
Sugarbeets	1,198.1		1,154.2	
Sugarcane	(NA)		906.6	
Tobacco	(NA)		355.7	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	18.0		14.1	
Dry edible beans	1,354.7		1,311.3	
Dry edible peas	860.0		797.0	
Lentils	362.0		347.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		7.3	
Hops	(NA)		35.2	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		68.8	
Potatoes, all	1,066.5		1,052.0	
Spring	75.9		72.9	
Summer	48.7		47.5	
Fall	941.9		931.6	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		24.5	
Sweet potatoes	115.7		113.2	
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: 2013 and 2014 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
			(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay				
Barley	bushels	71.7	215,078	
Corn for grain	bushels	158.8	13,925,147	
Corn for silage	tons	18.8	117,851	
Hay, all	tons	2.33	135,946	
Alfalfa	tons	3.24	57,581	
All other	tons	1.94	78,365	
Oats	bushels	64.0	65,879	
Proso millet	bushels	28.9	18,436	
Rice ³	cwt	7,694	189,886	
Rye	bushels	27.6	7,669	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	59.6	389,046	
Sorghum for silage	tons	14.3	5,420	
Wheat, all	bushels	47.2	2,129,695	
Winter	bushels	47.4	1,534,253	
Durum	bushels	43.6	61,913	
Other spring	bushels	47.1	533,529	
Oilseeds				
Canola	pounds	1,748	2,210,505	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)	4,406.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	19.5	3,356	
Mustard seed	pounds	846	36,727	
Peanuts	pounds	4,006	4,174,180	
Rapeseed	pounds	1,141	1,940	
Safflower	pounds	1,232	209,461	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	43.3	3,288,833	
Sunflower	pounds	1,378	2,032,725	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ³	bales	826	13,186.7	
Upland ³	bales	807	12,551.0	
American Pima ³	bales	1,530	635.7	
Sugarbeets	tons	28.5	32,837	
Sugarcane	tons	34.7	31,440	
Tobacco	pounds	2,036	724,108	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas ³	cwt	1,617	228	
Dry edible beans ³	cwt	1,867	24,486	
Dry edible peas ³	cwt	1,960	15,620	
Lentils ³	cwt	1,446	5,019	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)	275	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	pounds	960	7,000	
Hops	pounds	1,969	69,343.9	
Peppermint oil	pounds	89	6,132	
Potatoes, all	cwt	416	437,483	
Spring	cwt	304	22,137	
Summer	cwt	363	17,240	
Fall	cwt	427	398,106	
Spearmint oil	pounds	119	2,926	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	219	24,785	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	(NA)	3,100	

(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: 2013 and 2014

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,408,320		1,214,070	
Corn for grain ¹	38,593,260		35,478,360	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,531,740	
Hay, all ²	(NA)		23,576,030	
Alfalfa	(NA)		7,188,510	
All other	(NA)		16,387,520	
Oats	1,218,120		416,830	
Proso millet	291,380		258,190	
Rice	1,007,270		998,770	
Rye	585,180		112,500	
Sorghum for grain ¹	3,262,210		2,642,630	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		153,780	
Wheat, all ²	22,725,770		18,274,590	
Winter	17,438,090	16,953,270	13,112,770	
Durum	594,890		575,060	
Other spring	4,692,790		4,586,760	
Oilseeds				
Canola	545,520		511,730	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	73,250		69,610	
Mustard seed	18,210		17,560	
Peanuts	431,800		421,690	
Rapeseed	690		690	
Safflower	71,020		68,800	
Soybeans for beans	30,972,140		30,703,430	
Sunflower	637,590		596,760	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	4,211,610		3,101,710	
Upland	4,130,270		3,021,010	
American Pima	81,340		80,700	
Sugarbeets	484,860		467,090	
Sugarcane	(NA)		366,890	
Tobacco	(NA)		143,940	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	7,280		5,710	
Dry edible beans	548,230		530,670	
Dry edible peas	348,030		322,540	
Lentils	146,500		140,430	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		2,950	
Hops	(NA)		14,250	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		27,840	
Potatoes, all ²	431,600		425,730	
Spring	30,720		29,500	
Summer	19,710		19,220	
Fall	381,180		377,010	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		9,910	
Sweet potatoes	46,820		45,810	
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: 2013 and 2014 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.86		4,682,770	
Corn for grain	9.97		353,715,030	
Corn for silage	42.23		106,912,630	
Hay, all ²	5.23		123,328,140	
Alfalfa	7.27		52,236,600	
All other	4.34		71,091,530	
Oats	2.29		956,230	
Proso millet	1.62		418,120	
Rice	8.62		8,613,080	
Rye	1.73		194,800	
Sorghum for grain	3.74		9,882,220	
Sorghum for silage	31.97		4,916,940	
Wheat, all ²	3.17		57,960,800	
Winter	3.18		41,755,520	
Durum	2.93		1,685,000	
Other spring	3.17		14,520,280	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.96		1,002,670	
Cottonseed	(X)		3,997,060	
Flaxseed	1.22		85,250	
Mustard seed	0.95		16,660	
Peanuts	4.49		1,893,380	
Rapeseed	1.28		880	
Safflower	1.38		95,010	
Soybeans for beans	2.92		89,507,370	
Sunflower	1.55		922,030	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	0.93		2,871,070	
Upland	0.90		2,732,660	
American Pima	1.72		138,410	
Sugarbeets	63.78		29,789,230	
Sugarcane	77.74		28,521,890	
Tobacco	2.28		328,450	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.81		10,340	
Dry edible beans	2.09		1,110,670	
Dry edible peas	2.20		708,510	
Lentils	1.62		227,660	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		12,470	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	1.07		3,180	
Hops	2.21		31,450	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,780	
Potatoes, all ²	46.61		19,843,900	
Spring	34.04		1,004,120	
Summer	40.68		781,990	
Fall	47.90		18,057,790	
Spearmint oil	0.13		1,330	
Sweet potatoes	24.54		1,124,230	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		1,410	

(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: 2013 and 2014

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2013-2014 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2013	2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruittons	1,184	1,055
Lemonstons	912	871
Orangestons	8,349	7,368
Tangelos (Florida)tons	45	41
Tangerines and mandarinstons	684	690
Noncitrus		
Apples 1,000 pounds		
Apricotstons		
Bananas (Hawaii)pounds		
Grapestons		
Olives (California)tons		
Papayas (Hawaii)pounds		
Peachestons		
Pearstons		
Prunes, dried (California)tons		
Prunes and plums (excludes California)tons		
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)pounds		
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)tons		
Pecans, in-shellpounds		
Walnuts, in-shell (California)tons		
Maple syrup gallons	3,253	

¹ Production years are 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

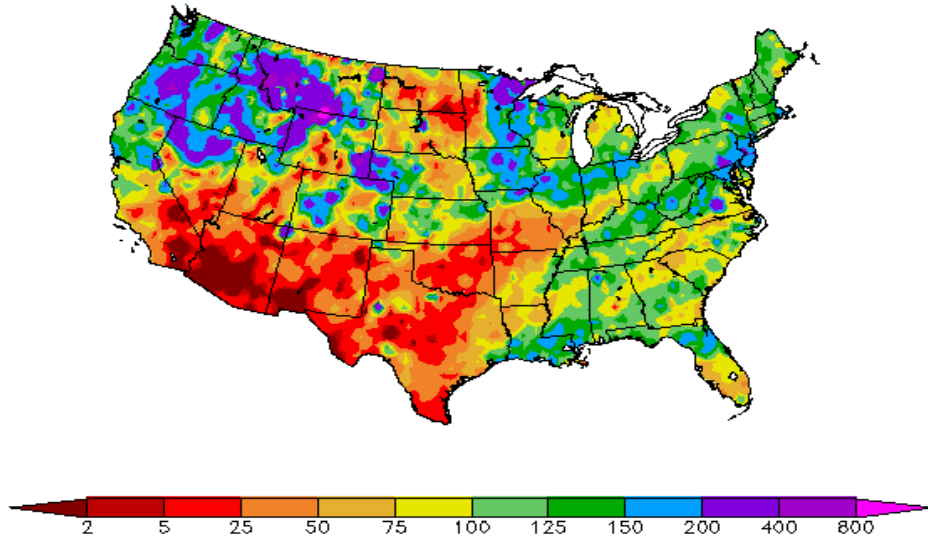
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2013 and 2014

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2014 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2013-2014 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2013 (metric tons)	2014 (metric tons)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	1,074,110	957,080
Lemons	827,350	790,160
Oranges	7,574,090	6,684,140
Tangelos (Florida)	40,820	37,190
Tangerines and mandarins	620,510	625,960
Noncitrus		
Apples		
Apricots		
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes		
Olives (California)		
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches		
Pears		
Prunes, dried (California)		
Prunes and plums (excludes California)		
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)		
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)		
Pecans, in-shell		
Walnuts, in-shell (California)		
Maple syrup	16,260	

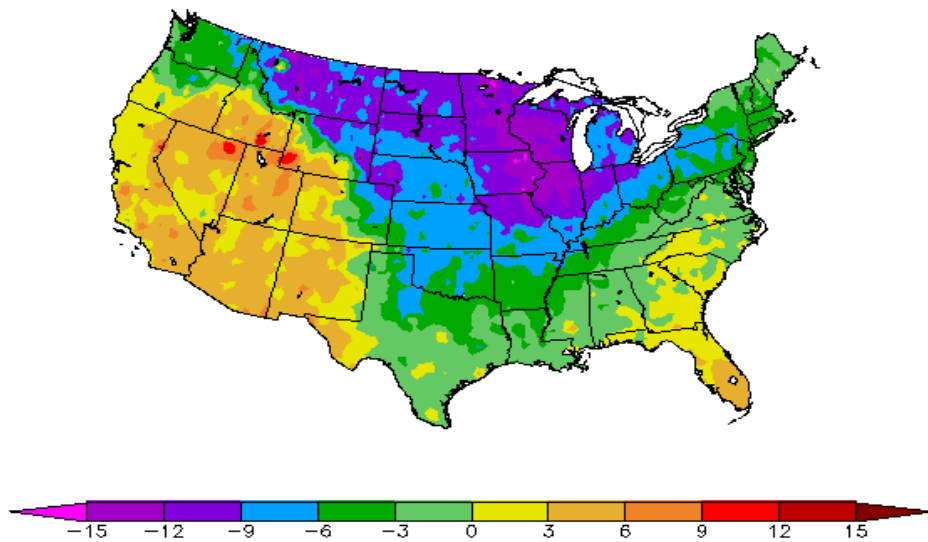
¹ Production years are 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
2/1/2014 - 2/28/2014



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/1/2014 - 2/28/2014



Regional Climate Centers

February Weather Summary

California experienced an odd month, with record-setting warmth occurring amid early- and late-month storminess. The rain and snow, while significant, failed to appreciably dent California's three-year drought. However, the precipitation aided drought-stressed rangeland, pastures, and winter grains, and temporarily eased irrigation requirements. At month's end, beneficial precipitation also overspread other drought-affected areas of the West, including the Great Basin and parts of the Southwest. Meanwhile, a more sustained stretch of stormy weather improved water-supply prospects in the Northwest.

Farther east, snowy conditions on the northern Plains contrasted with drier-than-normal weather on the southern Plains. During February, the Plains' winter wheat conditions remained steady or slowly declined due to a combination of drought, temperature extremes, occasional high winds, and exposure to bitter cold without the benefit of a protective snow cover. By month's end, 46 percent of the wheat was rated in very poor to poor condition in Texas, along with 31 percent in Oklahoma, 22 percent in Kansas, and 18 percent in Nebraska.

Meanwhile in the Corn Belt, bitterly cold, often snowy weather hampered rural travel and maintained stress on winter-weary livestock. Many individual station records for seasonal snowfall and days with sub-zero temperatures were approached, tied, or broken, especially in the Great Lakes States, as Midwestern communities experienced their harshest winter since at least the 1970s.

Elsewhere, much of the South and East were also exposed to periodic bouts of wintry weather and frigid conditions. However, winter agricultural regions of Deep South Texas and peninsular Florida continued to escape without a significant freeze.

February Agricultural Summary

Below-normal temperatures were recorded for much of the central United States between the Rocky and Appalachian Mountains during the month of February. Particularly cold temperatures were recorded in the northern Corn Belt with average temperatures in parts of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin over 12°F below normal. Precipitation levels were generally close to normal across the United States, with small pockets of above-average moisture in the Pacific Northwest and the Mississippi Delta. The lack of precipitation in southern California and along the Red River in Oklahoma and Texas has exacerbated drought conditions in those areas.

Producers in California welcomed February precipitation and reported improved conditions due to recent rains in winter forage, small grains, wheat, and alfalfa. However, some dryland crops continue to suffer from drought conditions as seasonal precipitation levels still remain behind normal. Range and non-irrigated pasture conditions continue to be rated in mostly poor to fair condition.

Below-average moisture in the southern Plains continued to have a negative impact on winter wheat conditions. As of March 2, thirty-one percent of the winter wheat acreage in Oklahoma was rated in good to excellent condition, down 5 percentage points from the February 2 estimate. Fifteen percent of the Texas winter wheat acreage was rated in good to excellent condition as of March 2, down 4 percentage points from February 2.

By mid-to-late month, blooms were noted in several of the more southern areas of the citrus growing region in Florida, signaling the beginning of next year's crop. Growers in the Indian River area are experimenting with tenting young trees to eradicate or control the psyllid population that is causing greening. Other methods are being used or tested to keep unaffected trees from getting the Huanglongbing, (HLB, Citrus Greening) virus.

Crop Comments

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2013 is forecast at 31.4 million tons, down 2 percent from February and last year. Producers intend to harvest 906,600 acres for sugar and seed during the 2013 crop year, up slightly from the previous forecast. Yield for sugar and seed is forecast at 34.7 tons per acre, down 3 percent from February. In

Florida, harvesting slowed in late February as the season comes to an end. Estimates for Hawaii, Texas, and Louisiana were carried forward from January.

Grapefruit: The 2013-2014 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.06 million tons, down 4 percent from the February forecast and down 11 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, both colored and white grapefruit droppage is the highest of any non-hurricane season. California and Texas grapefruit production forecasts were carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 900,000 boxes (41,000 tons), up 14 percent from the February forecast but down 9 percent from last season's final utilization. The Row Count Survey conducted February 25-26 showed 92 percent of the rows were harvested.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 690,000 tons, down 2 percent from the February forecast but up 1 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, harvest is complete for Fallglo and Sunburst varieties. The Row Count Survey conducted February 25-26 showed 45 percent of the Honey tangerine rows had been harvested. Arizona and California estimates were carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Florida citrus: High temperatures for the month ranged from the low 70s to the low 80s. Widespread rainfall during the first few weeks of February eliminated all drought conditions within the citrus region. Field workers reported small sizes on all varieties. Some growers reported various sizes in the same blocks ranging from slightly larger than golfball size to larger than baseball size on oranges. Grove activities included harvesting of mostly early oranges and grapefruit, hedging and topping after harvest, caring for new trees, and pulling out declining or dead trees. Bloom was noted in several of the southern areas of the citrus growing region, signaling the beginning of next year's crop. Some growers in the Indian River area reported experimenting with tenting young trees to eradicate or control the psyllid population that is causing greening. Other methods are also being used or tested to keep unaffected trees from getting the Huanglongbing (HLB, Citrus Greening) virus. Fifteen of nineteen processing plants have opened this season. Almost all packing houses were open and shipping fruit.

California citrus: Navel orange, Murcott tangerine, lemon, and Minneola tangelo harvests continued. Frost damaged citrus fruit was graded out. Valencia orange harvest began in a few locations. Young citrus trees were pruned.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Fruit and nut growers applied fungicides after heavy rains. Bloom continued for stone fruit trees. Cherries were starting bud break. Clingstone peach bloom began. In kiwi and grape vineyards, canes continued to be pruned and tied. Almond orchards were in full bloom; trees were beginning to leaf out, and heavy rains knocked some petals off. Pruning remained active in walnut, pecan, 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 67 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 2.0 percent for both the normal and 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 2.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.4 percent regardless of exclusions.

Changes between the March 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 174,000 tons (176,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 18,000 tons to 503,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The March 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 9 times and above 11 times (below 8 times and above 9 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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