



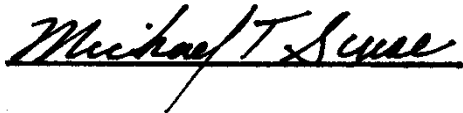
Released January 12, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Orange Production Down 3 Percent from December Forecast

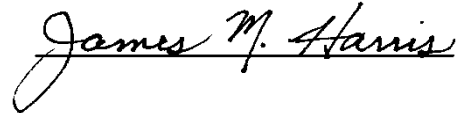
The United States all orange forecast for the 2014-2015 season is 6.72 million tons, down 3 percent from the previous forecast and down 1 percent from the 2013-2014 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 103 million boxes (4.64 million tons), is down 5 percent from the previous forecast and 2 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 48.0 million boxes (2.16 million tons), down 8 percent from the previous forecast and down 10 percent last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 55.0 million boxes (2.48 million tons), is down 2 percent from previous forecast but up 7 percent from last season's final utilization.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2014-2015 season is 1.59 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 1 percent from the December forecast but up 1 percent from last season's final yield of 1.57 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.45 gallons per box, down 5 percent from last season's yield. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.72 gallons up 5 percent from last year's final yield of 1.64 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, 2015.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Michael T. Scuse



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
James M. Harris

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Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2013-2014 and Forecasted January 1, 2015

[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	
	2013-2014 (1,000 boxes)	2014-2015 (1,000 boxes)	2013-2014 (1,000 tons)	2014-2015 (1,000 tons)
Oranges				
Early, mid, and Navel ²				
California	39,000	40,000	1,560	1,600
Florida	53,300	48,000	2,398	2,160
Texas	1,400	1,670	60	71
United States	93,700	89,670	4,018	3,831
Valencia				
California	11,000	10,000	440	400
Florida	51,300	55,000	2,309	2,475
Texas	376	345	16	15
United States	62,676	65,345	2,765	2,890
All				
California	50,000	50,000	2,000	2,000
Florida	104,600	103,000	4,707	4,635
Texas	1,776	2,015	76	86
United States	156,376	155,015	6,783	6,721
Grapefruit				
White				
Florida	4,150	4,000	176	170
Colored				
Florida	11,500	11,000	489	468
All				
California	4,000	4,000	160	160
Florida	15,650	15,000	665	638
Texas	5,700	6,000	228	240
United States	25,350	25,000	1,053	1,038
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ³	200	220	8	9
California ³	14,500	15,500	580	620
Florida	2,900	2,500	138	119
United States	17,600	18,220	726	748
Lemons				
Arizona	1,800	2,200	72	88
California	19,000	20,000	760	800
United States	20,800	22,200	832	888
Tangelos				
Florida	880	800	40	36

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, 2013 and 2014

State	May 1		December 1	
	2013 (1,000 tons)	2014 (1,000 tons)	2013 (1,000 tons)	2014 (1,000 tons)
Alabama	215	300	1,470	1,495
Arizona	35	35	200	320
Arkansas	170	550	2,150	2,050
California	320	140	1,900	1,750
Colorado	360	320	1,400	1,800
Connecticut	7	8	50	48
Delaware	3	2	32	28
Florida	25	55	460	570
Georgia	250	170	1,150	1,030
Idaho	570	320	2,350	2,250
Illinois	155	310	1,150	1,300
Indiana	110	200	1,040	1,070
Iowa	290	410	2,750	2,950
Kansas	460	1,340	4,500	3,700
Kentucky	470	700	4,200	3,300
Louisiana	150	105	500	820
Maine	22	18	120	130
Maryland	75	70	290	285
Massachusetts	12	19	69	50
Michigan	140	270	1,140	2,000
Minnesota	490	440	3,180	3,050
Mississippi	200	160	1,250	900
Missouri	600	1,800	5,900	5,500
Montana	860	875	4,700	4,600
Nebraska	610	1,150	3,800	4,600
Nevada	140	45	650	751
New Hampshire	10	6	21	43
New Jersey	15	22	110	118
New Mexico	105	90	400	435
New York	150	330	2,000	1,330
North Carolina	240	220	1,380	1,300
North Dakota	880	1,200	4,900	5,400
Ohio	140	275	1,500	1,550
Oklahoma	700	1,100	3,900	5,100
Oregon	230	210	1,700	1,640
Pennsylvania	300	300	2,000	1,720
Rhode Island	1	1	7	7
South Carolina	110	95	440	370
South Dakota	850	1,480	5,400	6,000
Tennessee	425	630	3,370	3,050
Texas	1,650	1,350	5,900	7,500
Utah	230	300	1,250	1,190
Vermont	36	45	205	182
Virginia	410	470	2,450	1,950
Washington	180	290	1,200	1,450
West Virginia	145	235	870	910
Wisconsin	410	435	2,900	2,960
Wyoming	200	280	1,000	1,500
United States	14,156	19,176	89,304	92,052

**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States:
2014 and 2015**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	2,975		2,443	
Corn for grain ¹	90,597		83,136	
Corn for silage	(NA)		6,371	
Hay, all	(NA)		57,092	
Alfalfa	(NA)		18,445	
All other	(NA)		38,647	
Oats	2,723		1,029	
Proso millet	505		430	
Rice	2,939		2,919	
Rye	1,434		258	
Sorghum for grain ¹	7,138		6,401	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		315	
Wheat, all	56,822		46,381	
Winter	42,399	40,452	32,304	
Durum	1,398		1,337	
Other spring	13,025		12,740	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,714.0		1,555.7	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	311		302	
Mustard seed	33.6		31.2	
Peanuts	1,354.0		1,325.0	
Rapeseed	2.2		2.1	
Safflower	181.5		170.2	
Soybeans for beans	83,701		83,061	
Sunflower	1,560.8		1,507.6	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	11,037.0		9,707.4	
Upland	10,845.0		9,518.0	
American Pima	192.0		189.4	
Sugarbeets	1,161.6		1,147.2	
Sugarcane	(NA)		874.1	
Tobacco	(NA)		378.4	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	24.0		16.8	
Dry edible beans	1,718.9		1,665.7	
Dry edible peas	935.0		899.5	
Lentils	281.0		259.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		7.9	
Hops	(NA)		38.0	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		63.1	
Potatoes, all	1,061.1		1,049.5	
Spring	73.8		71.1	
Summer	50.4		48.9	
Fall	936.9		929.5	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		24.4	
Sweet potatoes	137.3		135.2	
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:
2014 and 2015 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2014	2015	2014 (1,000)	2015 (1,000)
Grains and hay				
Barley	bushels	72.4	176,794	
Corn for grain	bushels	171.0	14,215,532	
Corn for silage	tons	20.1	128,048	
Hay, all	tons	2.45	139,798	
Alfalfa	tons	3.33	61,446	
All other	tons	2.03	78,352	
Oats	bushels	67.7	69,684	
Proso millet	bushels	31.4	13,483	
Rice ³	cwt	7,572	221,035	
Rye	bushels	27.9	7,189	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	67.6	432,575	
Sorghum for silage	tons	13.1	4,123	
Wheat, all	bushels	43.7	2,025,651	
Winter	bushels	42.6	1,377,526	
Durum	bushels	39.7	53,087	
Other spring	bushels	46.7	595,038	
Oilseeds				
Canola	pounds	1,614	2,510,995	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)	5,314.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	21.1	6,368	
Mustard seed	pounds	930	29,004	
Peanuts	pounds	3,932	5,210,100	
Rapeseed	pounds	1,233	2,590	
Safflower	pounds	1,226	208,643	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	47.8	3,968,823	
Sunflower	pounds	1,469	2,214,835	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ³	bales	795	16,084.0	
Upland ³	bales	781	15,496.0	
American Pima ³	bales	1,490	588.0	
Sugarbeets	tons	27.4	31,386	
Sugarcane	tons	35.3	30,869	
Tobacco	pounds	2,316	876,415	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas ³	cwt	1,339	225	
Dry edible beans ³	cwt	1,753	29,206	
Dry edible peas ³	cwt	1,907	17,155	
Lentils ³	cwt	1,300	3,367	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)	618	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	pounds	1,030	8,100	
Hops	pounds	1,868	70,995.9	
Peppermint oil	pounds	90	5,692	
Potatoes, all	cwt	426	446,693	
Spring	cwt	318	22,608	
Summer	cwt	322	15,756	
Fall	cwt	439	408,329	
Spearmint oil	pounds	114	2,784	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	219	29,584	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	(NA)	3,240	

(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: 2014 and 2015

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2014 (hectares)	2015 (hectares)	2014 (hectares)	2015 (hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,203,950		988,660	
Corn for grain ¹	36,663,700		33,644,310	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,578,280	
Hay, all ²	(NA)		23,104,560	
Alfalfa	(NA)		7,464,510	
All other	(NA)		15,640,050	
Oats	1,101,970		416,430	
Proso millet	204,370		174,020	
Rice	1,189,380		1,181,290	
Rye	580,330		104,410	
Sorghum for grain ¹	2,888,680		2,590,420	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		127,480	
Wheat, all ²	22,995,300		18,769,930	
Winter	17,158,450	16,370,520	13,073,110	
Durum	565,760		541,070	
Other spring	5,271,090		5,155,750	
Oilseeds				
Canola	693,640		629,580	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	125,860		122,220	
Mustard seed	13,600		12,630	
Peanuts	547,950		536,210	
Rapeseed	890		850	
Safflower	73,450		68,880	
Soybeans for beans	33,872,960		33,613,960	
Sunflower	631,640		610,110	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	4,466,560		3,928,490	
Upland	4,388,860		3,851,840	
American Pima	77,700		76,650	
Sugarbeets	470,090		464,260	
Sugarcane	(NA)		353,740	
Tobacco	(NA)		153,120	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	9,710		6,800	
Dry edible beans	695,620		674,090	
Dry edible peas	378,390		364,020	
Lentils	113,720		104,810	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	(NA)		3,200	
Hops	(NA)		15,380	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		25,540	
Potatoes, all ²	429,420		424,720	
Spring	29,870		28,770	
Summer	20,400		19,790	
Fall	379,150		376,160	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		9,870	
Sweet potatoes	55,560		54,710	
Taro (Hawaii) ³	(NA)		150	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States:
2014 and 2015 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.89		3,849,230	
Corn for grain	10.73		361,091,140	
Corn for silage	45.05		116,163,190	
Hay, all ²	5.49		126,822,610	
Alfalfa	7.47		55,742,870	
All other	4.54		71,079,740	
Oats	2.43		1,011,460	
Proso millet	1.76		305,790	
Rice	8.49		10,025,980	
Rye	1.75		182,610	
Sorghum for grain	4.24		10,987,910	
Sorghum for silage	29.34		3,740,320	
Wheat, all ²	2.94		55,129,190	
Winter	2.87		37,490,110	
Durum	2.67		1,444,790	
Other spring	3.14		16,194,280	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.81		1,138,970	
Cottonseed	(X)		4,820,780	
Flaxseed	1.32		161,750	
Mustard seed	1.04		13,160	
Peanuts	4.41		2,363,260	
Rapeseed	1.38		1,170	
Safflower	1.37		94,640	
Soybeans for beans	3.21		108,013,660	
Sunflower	1.65		1,004,630	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	0.89		3,501,880	
Upland	0.88		3,373,860	
American Pima	1.67		128,020	
Sugarbeets	61.33		28,472,900	
Sugarcane	79.17		28,003,890	
Tobacco	2.60		397,540	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.50		10,180	
Dry edible beans	1.97		1,324,760	
Dry edible peas	2.14		778,140	
Lentils	1.46		152,720	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		28,030	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Coffee (Hawaii)	1.15		3,670	
Hops	2.09		32,200	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,580	
Potatoes, all ²	47.71		20,261,650	
Spring	35.64		1,025,480	
Summer	36.11		714,680	
Fall	49.24		18,521,490	
Spearmint oil	0.13		1,260	
Sweet potatoes	24.53		1,341,910	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		1,470	

(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 – United States: 2014 and 2015 (Domestic Units)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2014-2015 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2014	2015
	(1,000)	(1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	1,053	1,038
Lemons	832	888
Oranges	6,783	6,721
Tangelos (Florida)	40	36
Tangerines and mandarins	726	748
Noncitrus		
Apples	10,888.4	
Apricots	61.5	
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes	7,937.5	
Olives (California)		
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches	863.9	
Pears	799.1	
Prunes, dried (California)	95.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)		
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	2,100,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	36.0	
Pecans, in-shell	275,620	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	545.0	
Maple syrup	3,167	

¹ Production years are 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

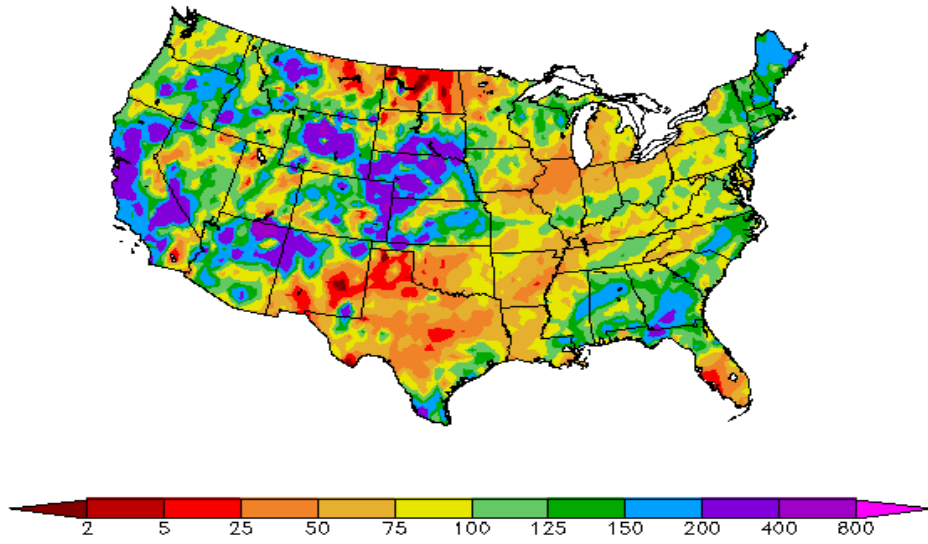
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2014 and 2015

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2015 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2014-2015 season. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2014	2015
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	955,270	941,660
Lemons	754,780	805,580
Oranges	6,153,430	6,097,190
Tangelos (Florida)	36,290	32,660
Tangerines and mandarins	658,620	678,570
Noncitrus		
Apples	4,938,900	
Apricots	55,780	
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes	7,200,780	
Olives (California)		
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches	783,680	
Pears	724,930	
Prunes, dried (California)	86,180	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)		
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	952,540	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	32,660	
Pecans, in-shell	125,020	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	494,420	
Maple syrup	15,830	

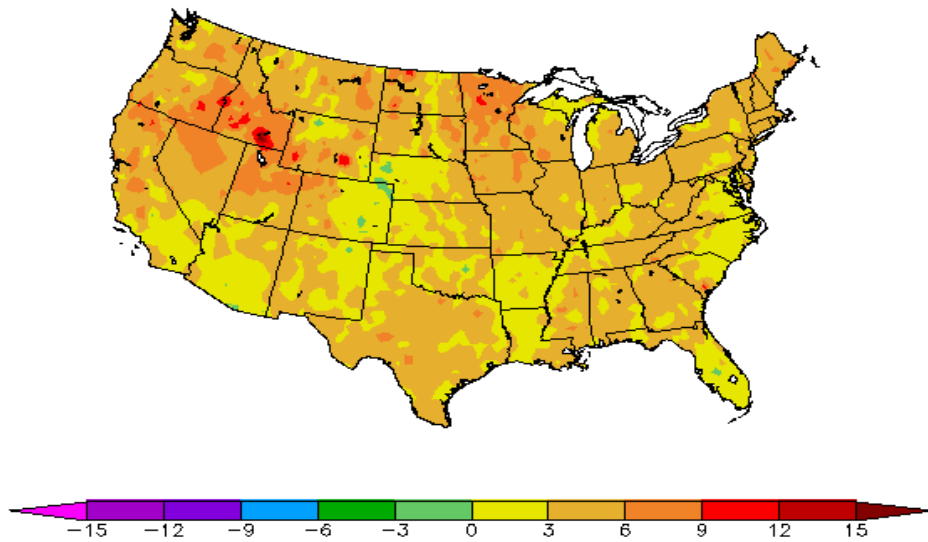
¹ Production years are 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
12/1/2014 - 12/31/2014



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2014 - 12/31/2014



Regional Climate Centers

December Weather Summary

Limited drought relief came to California in the form of several periods of heavy precipitation, highlighted by a potent, moisture-laden storm on December 11-12. Although the rain improved topsoil moisture benefited winter grains and helped to revive rangeland and pastures, significant effects from the 3-year drought persisted. For example, California's reservoirs got a slight boost from runoff, but collectively remained at near-record low levels. And, since most of California's storms were "warm" systems, high-elevation snowpack remained below one-half of average for this time of year.

Precipitation also spread into other areas of the West. Like California, however, snowpack in the Pacific Northwest languished due to warm conditions, despite an abundance of storms. Fewer storms reached the Southwest, where significantly below-average snowpack was also a concern.

Farther east, a very cold November was followed by a mostly mild December. Thawing, muddy fields led to delays in final corn harvest efforts in the Great Lakes region. Most other fieldwork across the South, East, and Midwest was eventually curtailed, as increasingly wet conditions developed as the month progressed. Just prior to the holidays, a sprawling storm system produced wet snow across the northern Plains and Midwest, along with torrential rainfall and locally severe thunderstorms in the Southeast.

Elsewhere, mid- to late-month precipitation (rain and snow) provided a little bit of beneficial moisture across winter wheat areas of the central and southern Plains. Heading into the overwintering period, wheat-related concerns included lingering drought (on the southern Plains); the effects of November's cold wave (on the central High Plains); and issues related to late planting and poor crop establishment (in the southern and eastern Corn Belt). From November 23 to the end of December, the portion of the winter wheat rated in good to excellent condition fell from 69 to 57 percent in Nebraska; 61 to 49 percent in Kansas; and 56 to 24 percent in Illinois.

December Agricultural Summary

Virtually all of the United States recorded above normal temperatures for the month of December. Some small pockets recorded average temperatures more than 9°F above normal in the northern Rocky Mountains and the Northern Plains. Precipitation levels were generally within 2 inches of normal levels across the Nation. The most notable exception occurred in northern California where locations recorded over 16 inches of precipitation for the month. Storms early in the month battered the region with winds in excess of 100 miles per hour and higher elevations received several feet of snow. Despite historically dry conditions in the area, the storms still resulted in flooding and mudslides throughout the region.

Harvest delays caused corn producers in Wisconsin to continue fieldwork into the month of December. On December 7, corn was 86 percent harvested in the State, making 2014 the fourth-latest corn harvest in the past 30 years, ahead of 1985, 1992, and 2009. As of December 14, corn harvested was 91 percent harvested, but fieldwork stalled as soils thawed creating muddy conditions and the humidity drove already high grain moisture even higher. Some producers will continue to put effort into harvesting the last of the standing corn and soybeans, but reports indicate that some fields will be left standing through the winter months.

In Kansas, winter wheat conditions were rated at 49 percent in the good to excellent categories at the end of December, down from 61 percent on November 23. The decrease in conditions is attributed to the lack of snow cover in the State to protect wheat from colder winter temperatures. Areas with greater snow cover reported high winter wheat ratings including Montana at 65 percent good to excellent, Colorado at 62 percent good to excellent, and Nebraska at 57 percent good to excellent.

Pasture and range conditions worsened in several parts of the Nation. In Missouri, pasture conditions at the end of the month were rated 32 percent in the good to excellent categories, down 16 percentage points from November 23. Oklahoma producers reported 30 percent of pasture in the good to excellent categories, down 9 percentage points from November 23. In Montana, pasture conditions were rated 35 percent in the good to excellent categories, down 7 percentage points from November 30.

In Florida, citrus production benefited from adequate precipitation and warmer than average temperatures during December. The beginning of the month saw the harvest of early variety oranges, grapefruit and tangerines. Producers are reporting overall good quality in fresh fruit, but fruit size is very small compared to a normal year. By the end of December, most processing plants have opened for the season. Navel orange harvest and white and colored grapefruit harvest is slightly lagging behind last season but overall running at a good pace.

Crop Comments

Grapefruit: The 2014-2015 United States grapefruit crop is forecast at 1.04 million tons, down 1 percent from last season's final utilization, but up 1 percent from last month's forecast. In Florida, current fruit size of white and colored grapefruit is less than average and is expected to be close to the minimum at harvest. Also in Florida, the current droppage for both white and colored grapefruit is expected to be close to the maximum at harvest.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2014-2015 United States lemon crop is 888,000 tons, up 7 percent from last season's final utilization. In California, lemon harvest was well underway with reported rain during December having a positive impact on the crop development.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 800,000 boxes (36,000 tons), down 10 percent from last season's final utilization, but unchanged from last month's forecast. Projected fruit size is below average and projected droppage is above average.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 748,000 tons, up 3 percent from last season's final utilization but down 3 percent from the December forecast. In Florida, harvest of Fallglo varieties is complete for the season and harvest of Sunburst tangerines is almost complete. The harvesting of the late maturing Honey tangerine is beginning. Projected Honey fruit size is slightly below the minimum while the projected droppage is slightly above the maximum. In California, the Satsuma harvest is complete.

Florida citrus: Across the citrus growing region, reported rainfall amounts were less than average for this time of the year. However, all citrus producing areas were void of abnormally dry or drought conditions throughout the month. After a cool front passed over the State during the second week, daily highs warmed to the mid 80s, bringing monthly temperatures closer to average.

Processing plants shut down for the Christmas holidays, but by the end of month were up and running at full capacity, taking both eliminations and field run fruit. Reported weekly harvesting amounts were low, due to the small size fruit and late maturity of early oranges. Early-mid orange varieties harvested for processing included both Hamlin and Pineapple oranges. Early variety fruit harvested for the fresh market included Navel oranges, Sunburst tangerines, white and colored grapefruit, and limited amounts of tangelos.

Grove activity included spraying, irrigation on several days during the month, and mowing in preparation for harvest. Citrus grower's field activities to combat greening continued and were causing some challenges as re-entry times after spraying were reported as ranging between forty-eight hours and ten days.

California citrus: The color in navel oranges was reported to be improving and exports were on the rise. Mandarin oranges, grapefruits, finger limes, and lemons continued to be packed and shipped to foreign markets. Growers treated citrus groves for fungal diseases and Fuller Rose Beetle infestation to maintain export quality.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Shelling, processing and exporting of stored almonds to foreign and domestic markets were ongoing. Olive, persimmon, and late variety table grape harvests continued but were winding down by the middle of the month. The walnut and pistachio harvests were reported as completed by the beginning of December. Harvested fruit and nut orchards received post-harvest irrigation, pruning, shredding, and spraying for weeds. Growers fertilized their crops in preparation for their dormant season. Due to heavy rains in the middle of December most field and orchard activity was halted due to the fields being saturated.

Hay stocks on farms: All hay stored on United States farms December 1, 2014 totaled 92.1 million tons, up 3 percent from the previous December. Disappearance from May 1, 2014 - December 1, 2014 totaled 66.9 million tons, compared

with 59.9 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

December 1 hay stocks were up from 2013 in many centrally located States due to larger production totals in 2014 as a result of good weather conditions during the growing season. However, persistent dry weather in several western States limited production and hay stock levels.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the January 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 69 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 August 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 3.9 percent. However, if you exclude the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 4.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 3.9 percent, or 4.0 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.8 percent, or 7.0 percent excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the January 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 313,000 tons (319,000 tons excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 2,000 tons to 638,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The January 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 7 times and above 13 times (below 7 times and above 10 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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Angie Considine – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum.....	(202) 720-5944
Tony Dahlman – Crop Weather, Barley.....	(202) 720-7621
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James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay.....	(202) 690-8533
Anthony Prillaman – Peanuts, Rice.....	(202) 720-2127
Travis Thorson – Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds.....	(202) 720-7369
Jorge Garcia-Pratts, Head, Fruits, Vegetables and Special Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Vincent Davis – Fresh and Processing Vegetables, Onions, Strawberries, Cherries.....	(202) 720-2157
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Daphne Schaubert – Floriculture, Maple Syrup, Nursery, Tree Nuts.....	(202) 720-4215
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Smart Agriculture in the 21st Century

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