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Orange Production Unchanged from January Forecast

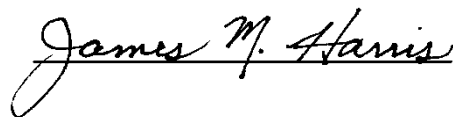
The United States all orange forecast for the 2014-2015 season is 6.72 million tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 1 percent from the 2013-2014 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 103 million boxes (4.64 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 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), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 10 percent last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 55.0 million boxes (2.48 million tons), is unchanged 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 1.57 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 1 percent from the January forecast but virtually unchanged from last season's final yield of 1.57 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.46 gallons per box, up 1 percent from last month but down 4 percent from last season's yield. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.69 gallons, up 3 percent from last year's final yield of 1.64 gallons per box but down 2 percent from last month's forecast. 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 February 10, 2015.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
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Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

Use and State	Area harvested		Yield per acre ¹		Production ¹	
	2013 (1,000 acres)	2014 (1,000 acres)	2013 (tons)	2014 (tons)	2013 (1,000 tons)	2014 (1,000 tons)
For sugar						
Florida	400.0	395.9	34.3	38.4	13,720	15,203
Hawaii ²	15.5	16.8	87.2	82.0	1,352	1,378
Louisiana ²	410.0	385.0	30.5	30.0	12,505	11,550
Texas ²	34.1	31.5	42.4	37.9	1,446	1,194
United States	859.6	829.2	33.8	35.4	29,023	29,325
For seed						
Florida	16.0	16.1	42.5	42.8	680	689
Hawaii ²	2.2	2.2	20.5	20.4	45	45
Louisiana ²	32.0	25.0	30.5	30.0	976	750
Texas ²	1.0	1.6	37.0	37.9	37	61
United States	51.2	44.9	33.9	34.4	1,738	1,545
For sugar and seed						
Florida	416.0	412.0	34.6	38.6	14,400	15,892
Hawaii ²	17.7	19.0	78.9	74.9	1,397	1,423
Louisiana ²	442.0	410.0	30.5	30.0	13,481	12,300
Texas ²	35.1	33.1	42.3	37.9	1,483	1,255
United States	910.8	874.1	33.8	35.3	30,761	30,870

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the *Crop Production 2014 Summary* released January 2015.

Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2013-2014 and Forecasted February 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	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Oranges				
Early, mid, and Navel ²				
California ³	39,000	40,000	1,560	1,600
Florida	53,300	48,000	2,398	2,160
Texas ³	1,400	1,670	60	71
United States	93,700	89,670	4,018	3,831
Valencia				
California ³	11,000	10,000	440	400
Florida	51,300	55,000	2,309	2,475
Texas ³	376	345	16	15
United States	62,676	65,345	2,765	2,890
All				
California ³	50,000	50,000	2,000	2,000
Florida	104,600	103,000	4,707	4,635
Texas ³	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 ³	4,000	4,000	160	160
Florida	15,650	15,000	665	638
Texas ³	5,700	6,000	228	240
United States	25,350	25,000	1,053	1,038
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ^{3 4}	200	220	8	9
California ^{3 4}	14,500	15,500	580	620
Florida	2,900	2,500	138	119
United States	17,600	18,220	726	748
Lemons ³				
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	700	40	32

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: 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	2015
			(1,000)	(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	30,870	
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	2015	2014	2015
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(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		28,004,790	
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 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, except citrus which is for the 2014-2015 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2014 (1,000)	2015 (1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit tons	1,053	1,038
Lemons tons	832	888
Oranges tons	6,783	6,721
Tangelos (Florida) tons	40	32
Tangerines and mandarins tons	726	748
Noncitrus		
Apples 1,000 pounds	11,251.2	
Apricots tons	64.1	
Bananas (Hawaii) pounds		
Grapes tons	7,769.6	
Olives (California) tons	82.3	
Papayas (Hawaii) pounds		
Peaches tons	846.6	
Pears tons	808.2	
Prunes, dried (California) tons	95.0	
Prunes and plums (excludes California) tons	14.8	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California) pounds	1,870,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) tons	36.0	
Pecans, in-shell pounds	265,370	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) tons	565.0	
Maple syrup gallons	3,167	

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

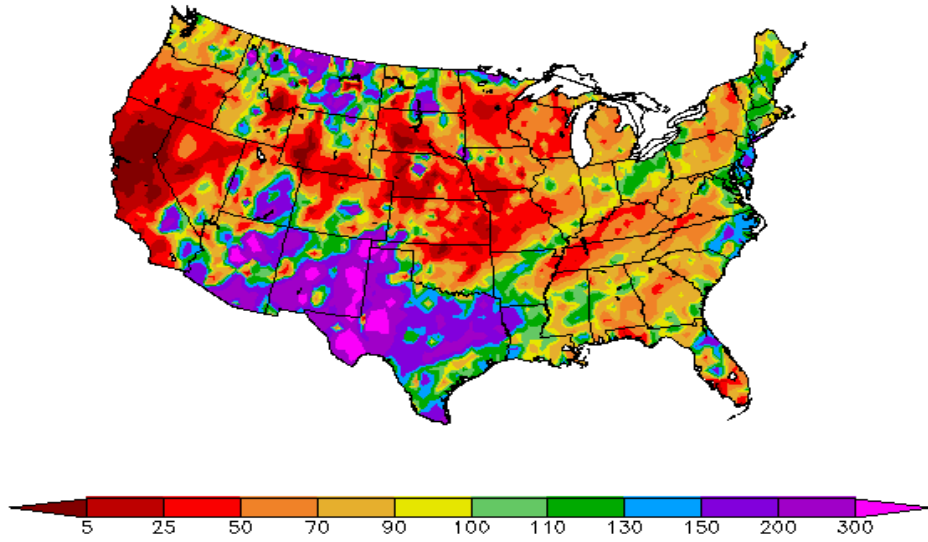
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2014 and 2015

[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 data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2014 (metric tons)	2015 (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	29,030
Tangerines and mandarins	658,620	678,570
Noncitrus		
Apples	5,103,460	
Apricots	58,180	
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes	7,048,490	
Olives (California)	74,660	
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches	768,040	
Pears	733,200	
Prunes, dried (California)	86,180	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)	13,430	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	848,220	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	32,660	
Pecans, in-shell	120,370	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	512,560	
Maple syrup	15,830	

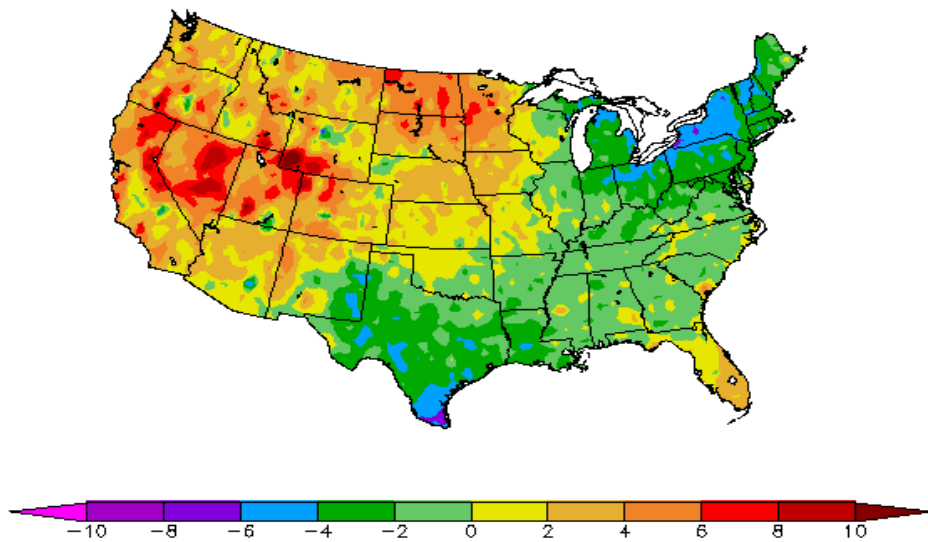
¹ Production years are 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/1/2015 - 1/31/2015



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/1/2015 - 1/31/2015



Regional Climate Centers

January Weather Summary

Mid-winter warmth dominated the western United States, accompanied in most areas by unfavorably dry conditions. California's spell without meaningful precipitation stretched to 6 weeks by the end of January, increasing the likelihood that drought will continue through a fourth consecutive growing season. Among the most serious drought-related issues in California was the lack of snowpack in key watershed areas, including the Sierra Nevada. The snowpack concerns also extended northward into the Cascades, where season-to-date precipitation has been adequate but persistent warmth has resulted in melting of existing snow or precipitation falling as rain.

Farther east, beneficial precipitation fell across much of the Nation's mid-section, including the High Plains. Some of the heaviest precipitation arrived at month's end, when a developing storm moved from the southern Rockies into the Midwest. Despite the January moisture, the Statewide portion of the winter wheat rated in good to excellent condition decreased by 7 to 15 percentage points between November 23 and February 1 in each of the Plains' seven major production States from Montana to Texas. By month's end, wheat rated in the good to excellent categories ranged from 38 percent in Colorado to 61 percent in Nebraska.

Meanwhile, precipitation events were frequent but generally light across the Midwest, South, and East. Notable exceptions included a late-January blizzard along the northern Atlantic Coast and a snow storm that began to unfold at month's end across the Midwest. Across the southernmost Corn Belt, a mid-month cold snap without the benefit of a protective snow cover threatened the poorly established soft red winter wheat crop. Elsewhere, areas being watched due to developing dryness included the mid-South and the southern tip of Florida.

January Agricultural Summary

Precipitation levels for the month were generally within 3 inches of normal across the Nation. The major exception to this trend occurred in northern California and the Pacific coast of Oregon where recorded precipitation levels in some areas were more than 6 inches below normal. Despite a wet December, dry weather on the Pacific coast has caused drought conditions to continue in the area. Temperatures were above average for the month from the northern Great Plains across the western United States with areas in the central Rocky Mountains and the Great Basin recording temperatures more than 8°F above normal. Temperatures were cooler from the southern Great Plains to the Atlantic coast with areas bordering the Great Lakes and the Texas Gulf Coast recording average temperatures more than 4°F below normal.

Winter wheat condition declined over the previous month in several wheat producing States. Kansas winter wheat condition was rated at 46 percent in the good to excellent categories as of February 1, down 3 percentage points from the beginning of January. Colorado winter wheat condition dropped 24 percentage points from the beginning of the month, with 46 percent rated in good to excellent condition on February 1. Montana winter wheat was rated 58 percent good to excellent at the end of the month, down 7 percentage points from January 4. Lack of protective snow cover across the Great Plains is generally attributed to the condition declines.

In Arizona, alfalfa conditions were mostly fair to excellent, depending on location. Harvesting occurred on two-thirds of the alfalfa acreage across the State. Sheep continue to graze on various alfalfa fields in many areas. Precipitation throughout the month helped maintain soil moisture levels in range and pasture. Rangeland conditions vary widely from very poor to good, depending on location.

Early month precipitation saturated some fields and limited access for California producers. Wheat, oats, and other winter forage grew well throughout the month but more rain is needed as the crops develop. Pruning and shredding in tree fruit and grape vineyards proceeded throughout the month. Navel oranges, mandarins, lemons, grapefruit, and limes were harvested, packed, and exported during January. The month began with pruning and shredding in almond orchards and shifted to walnut and pistachio orchards as the month proceeded. Sporadic rain improved some rangeland conditions but beef cattle had to be fed with supplements with rangeland in need of more rain for growth. More rain is necessary to help with the germination and development of foothill grasses and forbs. Bee hives started to be positioned in preparation for the almond pollination.

Cool conditions, including some reports of snow, have impacted the development of winter wheat and oats across Texas. Spring wheat and oats seedings neared completion by the end of the month in South Texas. Cotton harvest in the Northern High and Low Plains was near completion. Many producers are beginning preparations for 2015 corn and cotton planting. Vegetable processing and harvest continued. Livestock were generally in fair to good condition across the State as supplemental feeding continued.

Fieldwork and soil preparation for spring plantings occurred as field conditions allowed in the Panhandle of Florida. Sugarcane harvest took place in Glades and Hendry counties throughout the month. Pasture conditions started the month fair to good but improved with increased rainfall as January proceeded. Livestock producers provided supplemental feed as necessary. Citrus processing plants were up and running at full capacity throughout the month. Navel orange harvest slowed throughout the month as the season completed. Other citrus harvested included Hamlin and Pineapple oranges, colored and white grapefruit and honey tangerines. Grove activity included running irrigation, fertilizing, and some spraying.

Crop Comments

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 700,000 boxes (32,000 tons), down 20 percent from last season's final utilization and down 13 percent from last month's forecast. The Row Count Survey conducted February 2-3 showed 69 percent of the rows were harvested.

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 unchanged from last month's forecast. In Florida, current fruit size of white and colored grapefruit is smaller than average. Also in Florida, the current drop rate for white is below last season's record high level; however it is the third highest on record. Droppage for the colored grapefruit in Florida is expected to be a new record high this season at harvest. California and Texas grapefruit production forecasts are carried forward from January.

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 unchanged from the January forecast. In Florida, harvest of early season varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) is relatively complete for the season. Arizona and California, the tangerines and mandarins production forecast are carried forward from January.

Florida citrus: Across the citrus growing region, reported rainfall amounts were slightly less than average. Most citrus growing counties recorded two inches of rainfall or less during the month; while some East Coast counties and northern counties had slightly more rainfall. Daily high temperatures were mostly in the 70s, while minimum temperatures were usually in the 40s. All citrus producing areas were void of abnormally dry or drought conditions throughout the month.

Processing plants were up and running at full capacity, taking both eliminations and field run fruit. Early-mid orange varieties harvested for processing included both Hamlin and Pineapple oranges. Some plants closed over the weekends in order to eliminate the gap between the early-mid and late variety oranges. Early variety fruit harvested for the fresh market included Navel oranges, Sunburst tangerines, white and colored grapefruit, and tangelos.

Grove activity included spraying, irrigation, and mowing in preparation for harvest. Citrus growers continued field practices to combat greening. Field workers across the citrus region observed patchy pinhead bloom on early oranges.

California citrus: The color in navel oranges has been reported to be improving and exports were on the rise. Mandarin oranges, Navel oranges, Cara Cara, grapefruits, finger limes, and lemons continued to be packed. Growers treated citrus groves for fungal diseases and the Fuller Rose Beetle to maintain good quality and meet export requirements.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Pruning and shredding were the month's main reported activities, as well as application of pre-emergence herbicides on nut trees, and fumigating for replanting. The export of stored table grapes had mostly ended. Kiwifruit continued to be packed and exported for domestic and foreign markets. Avocados were harvested. Persimmons continued to be harvested and sold at roadside stands. Minimal damage from mid-month cold temperatures was reported in a few isolated spots. The sale of stored nuts continued to be dominated by domestic markets.

Some early bud-swell was reported in almond orchards and walnuts were thinned. Weed spraying picked up in the vineyards and orchards late in the month. Copper sprays were applied on cherry orchards.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2014 is forecast at 30.9 million tons, of which 29.3 million tons was utilized for sugar and 1.55 million tons for seed. Total production is up slightly from both last month and the previous year. Producers intend to harvest 874,100 acres for sugar and seed during the 2014 crop year, unchanged from the previous forecast. Expected yield for sugar and seed is forecast at 35.3 tons per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 1.5 tons per acre from the previous season. Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas sugarcane estimates were carried forward from January.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the February 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 February 1 forecast.

Revision policy: The February 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 February 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the February 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 February 1 orange production forecast is 4.0 percent. However, if you exclude the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is also 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 4.0 percent, regardless of exclusions. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.8 percent, or 6.9 percent excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the February 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 325,000 tons (322,000 tons excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 18,000 tons to 638,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The February 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 February 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
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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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Smart Agriculture in the 21st Century

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