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Orange Production Unchanged from January Forecast

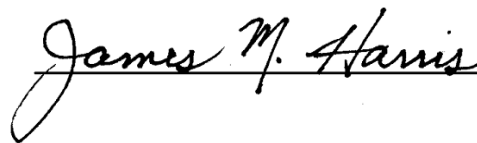
The United States all orange forecast for the 2015-2016 season is 5.25 million tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 18 percent from the 2014-2015 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 69.0 million boxes (3.11 million tons), is unchanged from last month's forecast but down 29 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 36.0 million boxes (1.62 million tons), unchanged from last month but down 24 percent from last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 33.0 million boxes (1.49 million tons), is unchanged from last month but down 33 percent from last season's final utilization. California and Texas orange production forecasts were carried forward from the previous forecast.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2015-2016 season is 1.45 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 3 percent from the January forecast and last season's final yield of 1.50 gallons per box. The early and midseason portion is projected at 1.35 gallons per box, down 2 percent from last month and down 5 percent from last season's final yield of 1.42 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is projected at 1.60 gallons per box, down 3 percent from the January forecast but up 1 percent from last year's final yield of 1.58 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 February 9, 2016.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
James M. Harris

Contents

Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2014 and 2015	4
Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2014-2015 and Forecasted February 1, 2016	5
Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2015 and 2016.....	6
Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2015 and 2016	8
Fruits and Nuts Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2015 and 2016	10
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2015 and 2016.....	11
Percent of Normal Precipitation Map	12
Departure from Normal Temperature Map	12
January Weather Summary	13
January Agricultural Summary	13
Crop Comments	14
Statistical Methodology	16
Information Contacts	17

Sugarcane Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by Use – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

Use and State	Area harvested		Yield per acre ¹		Production ¹	
	2014 (1,000 acres)	2015 (1,000 acres)	2014 (tons)	2015 (tons)	2014 (1,000 tons)	2015 (1,000 tons)
For sugar						
Florida	392.0	409.0	38.4	41.0	15,053	16,769
Hawaii ²	14.2	16.5	88.8	86.2	1,261	1,422
Louisiana ²	386.0	385.0	29.5	31.0	11,387	11,935
Texas ²	31.5	37.0	37.9	36.0	1,194	1,332
United States	823.7	847.5	35.1	37.1	28,895	31,458
For seed						
Florida	16.0	15.0	42.8	46.0	685	690
Hawaii ²	2.2	2.2	20.4	20.0	45	44
Louisiana ²	25.0	25.0	29.5	31.0	738	775
Texas ²	1.6	2.0	37.9	36.0	61	72
United States	44.8	44.2	34.1	35.8	1,529	1,581
For sugar and seed						
Florida	408.0	424.0	38.6	41.2	15,738	17,459
Hawaii ²	16.4	18.7	79.6	78.4	1,306	1,466
Louisiana ²	411.0	410.0	29.5	31.0	12,125	12,710
Texas ²	33.1	39.0	37.9	36.0	1,255	1,404
United States	868.5	891.7	35.0	37.1	30,424	33,039

¹ Net tons.

² Estimates are carried forward from the *Crop Production 2015 Summary* released January 2016.

Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2014-2015 and Forecasted February 1, 2016

[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	
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2014-2015	2015-2016
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Oranges				
California, all ²	49,000	52,000	1,960	2,080
Early, mid, and Navel ^{2 3}	39,500	42,000	1,580	1,680
Valencia ²	9,500	10,000	380	400
Florida, all	96,800	69,000	4,356	3,105
Early, mid, and Navel ³	47,400	36,000	2,133	1,620
Valencia	49,400	33,000	2,223	1,485
Texas, all ²	1,452	1,410	62	60
Early, mid, and Navel ^{2 3}	1,170	1,130	50	48
Valencia ²	282	280	12	12
United States, all	147,252	122,410	6,378	5,245
Early, mid, and Navel ³	88,070	79,130	3,763	3,348
Valencia	59,182	43,280	2,615	1,897
Grapefruit				
California ²	3,800	3,700	152	148
Florida, all	12,900	10,500	548	447
Red	9,650	8,200	410	349
White	3,250	2,300	138	98
Texas ²	4,250	5,100	170	204
United States	20,950	19,300	870	799
Tangerines and mandarins				
Arizona ^{4 5}	170	(NA)	7	(NA)
California ^{2 4}	18,200	21,000	728	840
Florida	2,270	1,500	108	71
United States	20,640	22,500	843	911
Lemons ²				
Arizona	2,000	1,600	80	64
California	20,500	20,000	820	800
United States	22,500	21,600	900	864
Tangelos				
Florida	680	400	31	18

(NA) Not available.

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 Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

³ Navel and miscellaneous varieties in California. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in Florida and Texas. Small quantities of Temples in Florida.

⁴ Includes tangelos and tangors.

⁵ Estimates discontinued in 2015-2016.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3,558		3,109	
Corn for grain ¹	87,999		80,749	
Corn for silage	(NA)		6,221	
Hay, all	(NA)		54,437	
Alfalfa	(NA)		17,778	
All other	(NA)		36,659	
Oats	3,088		1,276	
Proso millet	445		418	
Rice	2,614		2,575	
Rye	1,569		360	
Sorghum for grain ¹	8,459		7,851	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		306	
Wheat, all	54,644		47,094	
Winter	39,461	36,609	32,257	
Durum	1,936		1,896	
Other spring	13,247		12,941	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1,777.0		1,714.5	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	463		456	
Mustard seed	44.0		40.1	
Peanuts	1,625.0		1,568.0	
Rapeseed	1.2		1.1	
Safflower	168.2		159.1	
Soybeans for beans	82,650		81,849	
Sunflower	1,859.1		1,799.4	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	8,580.5		8,076.9	
Upland	8,422.0		7,922.0	
American Pima	158.5		154.9	
Sugarbeets	1,158.8		1,144.3	
Sugarcane	(NA)		891.7	
Tobacco	(NA)		326.6	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	34.0		21.0	
Dry edible beans	1,764.4		1,711.4	
Dry edible peas	1,143.0		1,083.5	
Lentils	493.0		476.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	(NA)		43.6	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		65.2	
Potatoes, all	1,065.2		1,053.3	
Spring	70.1		68.5	
Summer	50.5		47.1	
Fall	944.6		937.7	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		27.2	
Sweet potatoes	156.9		153.1	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		0.3	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2015 and 2016 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per acre		Production	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
			(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay				
Barley	bushels	68.9	214,297	
Corn for grain	bushels	168.4	13,601,198	
Corn for silage	tons	20.4	126,894	
Hay, all	tons	2.47	134,388	
Alfalfa	tons	3.32	58,974	
All other	tons	2.06	75,414	
Oats	bushels	70.2	89,535	
Proso millet	bushels	33.9	14,159	
Rice ²	cwt	7,470	192,343	
Rye	bushels	31.9	11,496	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	76.0	596,751	
Sorghum for silage	tons	14.6	4,475	
Wheat, all	bushels	43.6	2,051,752	
Winter	bushels	42.5	1,370,188	
Durum	bushels	43.5	82,484	
Other spring	bushels	46.3	599,080	
Oilseeds				
Canola	pounds	1,677	2,875,010	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)	4,153.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	22.1	10,095	
Mustard seed	pounds	671	26,927	
Peanuts	pounds	3,963	6,213,790	
Rapeseed	pounds	1,382	1,520	
Safflower	pounds	1,347	214,251	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	48.0	3,929,885	
Sunflower	pounds	1,625	2,923,730	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	bales	769	12,943.0	
Upland ²	bales	758	12,508.0	
American Pima ²	bales	1,348	435.0	
Sugarbeets	tons	30.8	35,278	
Sugarcane	tons	37.1	33,039	
Tobacco	pounds	2,178	711,236	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas ²	cwt	1,238	260	
Dry edible beans ²	cwt	1,760	30,121	
Dry edible peas ²	cwt	1,687	18,283	
Lentils ²	cwt	1,108	5,276	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)	384	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	pounds	1,807	78,846.0	
Peppermint oil	pounds	90	5,882	
Potatoes, all	cwt	418	440,498	
Spring	cwt	296	20,251	
Summer	cwt	334	15,734	
Fall	cwt	431	404,513	
Spearmint oil	pounds	113	3,070	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	203	31,016	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	10,300	3,502	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

² Yield in pounds.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,439,890		1,258,180	
Corn for grain ¹	35,612,320		32,678,310	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,517,580	
Hay, all ²	(NA)		22,030,110	
Alfalfa	(NA)		7,194,580	
All other	(NA)		14,835,530	
Oats	1,249,680		516,380	
Proso millet	180,090		169,160	
Rice	1,057,860		1,042,080	
Rye	634,960		145,690	
Sorghum for grain ¹	3,423,270		3,177,220	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		123,840	
Wheat, all ²	22,113,880		19,058,470	
Winter	15,969,470	14,815,300	13,054,090	
Durum	783,480		767,290	
Other spring	5,360,930		5,237,090	
Oilseeds				
Canola	719,130		693,840	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	187,370		184,540	
Mustard seed	17,810		16,230	
Peanuts	657,620		634,550	
Rapeseed	490		450	
Safflower	68,070		64,390	
Soybeans for beans	33,447,630		33,123,470	
Sunflower	752,360		728,200	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	3,472,440		3,268,640	
Upland	3,408,300		3,205,950	
American Pima	64,140		62,690	
Sugarbeets	468,950		463,090	
Sugarcane	(NA)		360,860	
Tobacco	(NA)		132,150	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	13,760		8,500	
Dry edible beans	714,040		692,590	
Dry edible peas	462,560		438,480	
Lentils	199,510		192,630	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	(NA)		17,660	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		26,390	
Potatoes, all ²	431,080		426,260	
Spring	28,370		27,720	
Summer	20,440		19,060	
Fall	382,270		379,480	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		11,010	
Sweet potatoes	63,500		61,960	
Taro (Hawaii)	(NA)		140	

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Metric Units – United States:
2015 and 2016 (continued)**

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.71		4,665,770	
Corn for grain	10.57		345,486,340	
Corn for silage	45.73		115,116,300	
Hay, all ²	5.53		121,914,740	
Alfalfa	7.44		53,500,310	
All other	4.61		68,414,430	
Oats	2.52		1,299,600	
Proso millet	1.90		321,120	
Rice	8.37		8,724,530	
Rye	2.00		292,010	
Sorghum for grain	4.77		15,158,170	
Sorghum for silage	32.78		4,059,650	
Wheat, all ²	2.93		55,839,540	
Winter	2.86		37,290,410	
Durum	2.93		2,244,850	
Other spring	3.11		16,304,290	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.88		1,304,080	
Cottonseed	(X)		3,767,540	
Flaxseed	1.39		256,420	
Mustard seed	0.75		12,210	
Peanuts	4.44		2,818,530	
Rapeseed	1.55		690	
Safflower	1.51		97,180	
Soybeans for beans	3.23		106,953,940	
Sunflower	1.82		1,326,180	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all ²	0.86		2,818,010	
Upland	0.85		2,723,300	
American Pima	1.51		94,710	
Sugarbeets	69.11		32,003,660	
Sugarcane	83.06		29,972,480	
Tobacco	2.44		322,610	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.39		11,790	
Dry edible beans	1.97		1,366,270	
Dry edible peas	1.89		829,300	
Lentils	1.24		239,320	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		17,420	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	2.03		35,760	
Peppermint oil	0.10		2,670	
Potatoes, all ²	46.87		19,980,650	
Spring	33.14		918,570	
Summer	37.44		713,680	
Fall	48.35		18,348,400	
Spearmint oil	0.13		1,390	
Sweet potatoes	22.71		1,406,860	
Taro (Hawaii)	11.55		1,590	

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Area planted for all purposes.

² Total may not add due to rounding.

Fruits and Nuts Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2015-2016 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2015	2016
	(1,000)	(1,000)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit 1,000 tons	870	799
Lemons 1,000 tons	900	864
Oranges 1,000 tons	6,378	5,245
Tangelos (Florida) 1,000 tons	31	18
Tangerines and mandarins 1,000 tons	843	911
Noncitrus		
Apples million pounds	10,171.8	
Apricots tons	53,008	
Bananas (Hawaii) pounds		
Grapes tons	8,046,400	
Olives (California) tons		
Papayas (Hawaii) pounds		
Peaches tons	804,600	
Pears tons	733,000	
Prunes, dried (California) tons	100,000	
Prunes and plums (excludes California) tons		
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California) 1,000 pounds	1,800,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon) tons	39,000	
Pecans, in-shell 1,000 pounds	272,340	
Walnuts, in-shell (California) tons	575,000	
Maple syrup 1,000 gallons	3,414	

¹ Production years are 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

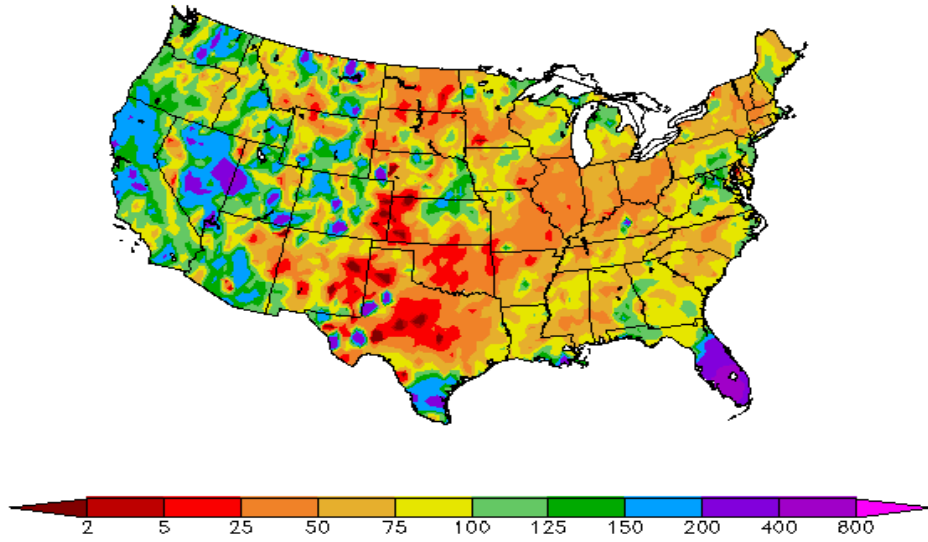
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2016 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2015-2016 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2015 (metric tons)	2016 (metric tons)
Citrus ¹		
Grapefruit	789,250	724,840
Lemons	816,470	783,810
Oranges	5,786,020	4,758,180
Tangelos (Florida)	28,120	16,330
Tangerines and mandarins	764,760	826,450
Noncitrus		
Apples	4,613,850	
Apricots	48,090	
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Grapes	7,299,570	
Olives (California)		
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches	729,920	
Pears	664,970	
Prunes, dried (California)	90,720	
Prunes and plums (excludes California)		
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	816,470	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	35,380	
Pecans, in-shell	123,530	
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	521,630	
Maple syrup	17,070	

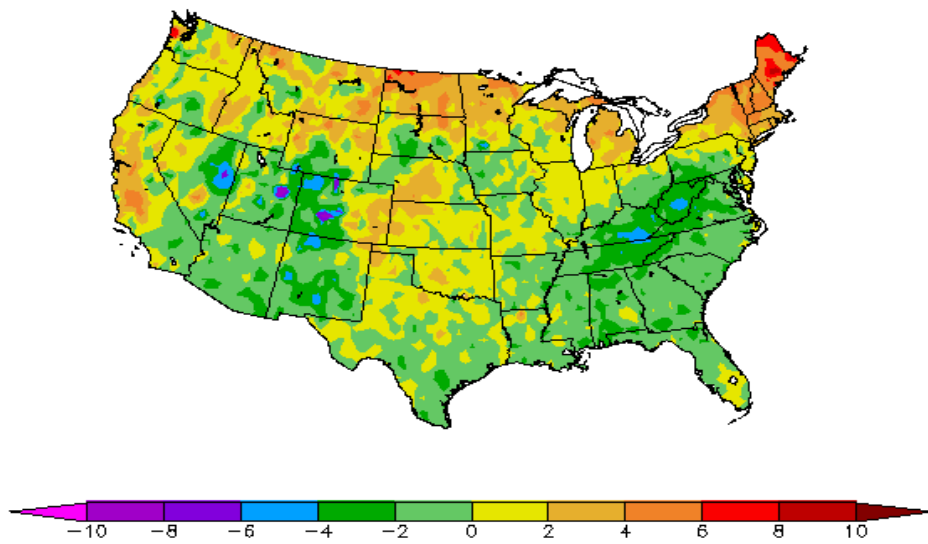
¹ Production years are 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/1/2016 – 1/31/2016



Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/1/2016 – 1/31/2016



Regional Climate Centers

January Weather Summary

Frequent storms, in part fueled by a strong El Niño, further dented the Western drought and maintained generally adequate to locally excessive soil moisture across the central and eastern United States.

In early January and again at month's end, a southward shift in the storm track brought significant precipitation to southern California and the Southwest. For much of the remainder of January, storms primarily crossed the Northwest, with meaningful precipitation often falling as far south as northern and central California. By the end of January, the average water content of the high-elevation Sierra Nevada snowpack stood at 20 inches, about 115 percent of average for the date.

Meanwhile, wet weather in southern Florida resulted in numerous January rainfall records and adversely affected winter vegetables and other crops. At times, high winds accompanied southern Florida's heavy rain. Farther north, a major winter storm on January 22-23 produced freezing rain in parts of the Carolinas and heavy snow from the interior Southeast to the northern Mid-Atlantic States.

Some of the coldest air of the season trailed the storm into the Southeast from January 23-25, although Florida's citrus belt escaped without a significant freeze. Elsewhere, near- to above-normal temperatures dominated the country during January, with colder-than-normal conditions mostly limited to the Southeast and areas blanketed by the January 22-23 snowfall.

Amid the overall stormy January pattern, a few areas began to turn dry. However, drier-than-normal January conditions across the southern Plains, mid-south, and parts of the Southeast were mostly favorable, following the excessive rainfall and flooding of October-December 2015. At the end of January, USDA categorized more than two-thirds of the winter wheat in good to excellent condition in several major production States, including Oklahoma (74 percent good to excellent); Ohio (74 percent); Michigan (73 percent); Montana (72 percent); Indiana (71 percent); and South Dakota (67 percent). In contrast, North Carolina's wheat continued to struggle from the effects of autumn wetness and delayed planting; only 36 percent of the State's crop was rated good to excellent on January 31.

By February 2, the U.S. drought coverage of 15.5 percent represented the smallest areal drought extent since October 26, 2010. As recently as October 20, 2015, contiguous United States drought coverage stood at 34.8 percent. During January, most of the remaining drought across the Far West was only apparent when looking at long-term indicators such as below-average reservoir storage, groundwater shortages, and tree mortality.

January Agricultural Summary

Precipitation levels for the month were generally below normal across most of the Nation. The major exception to this trend occurred in southern Florida and northern California where recorded precipitation in some areas was more than 6 inches above normal. A mid-month massive storm dropped snow from the Delta to New England, with some areas surpassing 30 inches total. Temperatures were above average for the month across the northern border States and along the Pacific Coast. Temperatures were cooler than normal in the lower Rocky Mountains and southern Appalachian Mountains, with some locations recording average temperatures more than 4°F below normal.

Kansas winter wheat conditions were rated at 55 percent in the good to excellent categories as of January 31, up slightly from the beginning of January. Winter wheat conditions declined over the month in several wheat producing States. Colorado winter wheat conditions dropped 6 percentage points from the beginning of the month, with 48 percent rated in good to excellent condition on January 31. Montana winter wheat was rated 72 percent good to excellent at the end of the month, down 2 percentage points from January 3. In Nebraska, winter wheat conditions were rated at 56 percent in the good to excellent categories at the end of month, down from 59 percent on January 3. Inadequate snow cover across the Great Plains was generally attributed to the condition declines.

In Arizona, alfalfa conditions were mostly good to excellent throughout the month. Alfalfa harvesting occurred on at least 70 percent of the acres across the State. Temperatures across Arizona were mostly below normal for the first two weeks of January and mostly above normal the last two weeks, with above normal precipitation by the end of the month.

Seventy-five percent of the intended barley acreage and 70 percent of the intended Durum acreage was planted by the end of January. Vegetable and citrus harvesting activities continued throughout the month.

Florida sugarcane harvest continued in Glades and Hendry Counties throughout the month. Pasture conditions started the month mostly good to excellent but declined with excessive rainfall as January proceeded. The State's livestock producers provided supplemental feed as necessary. Citrus processing plants ran at full capacity throughout January. Navel orange and Sunburst tangerine harvest slowed throughout the month. Other citrus harvested included Hamlin and Pineapple oranges, colored and white grapefruit, and honey tangerines. Grove activity included running irrigation, fertilizing, and mowing.

Winter wheat and oats continued to progress across Texas during January, with some producers in areas of South Texas beginning to irrigate wheat and oat fields due to dry conditions. However, overall conditions were rated mostly good to fair at the end of the month. Statewide cotton harvest was 97 percent complete as of January 31, three percentage points behind normal. Pastures continued to progress and livestock producers across the State continued supplemental feeding through January.

Crop Comments

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 400,000 boxes (18,000 tons), unchanged from last month but down 41 percent from last season's final utilization. The production is the lowest since the 1958-1959 season. The Row Count Survey conducted January 27-28 showed 74 percent of the rows were harvested.

Grapefruit: The United States 2015-2016 grapefruit crop is forecast at 799,000 tons, down 1 percent from last month's forecast and down 8 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, expected production at 10.5 million boxes is down 3 percent from last month and down 19 percent from last year. California and Texas grapefruit production forecasts were carried forward from the previous forecast.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 911,000 tons, up slightly from last month and up 8 percent last season's final utilization. If realized this will be the largest production ever recorded. The Florida forecast is up 7 percent from the previous month but down 34 percent from last year. The California tangerines and mandarin production forecast was carried forward from the previous forecast. Estimates for Arizona have been discontinued.

Florida citrus: In the citrus growing region, reported daily high temperatures ranged from the upper 60s to mid-70s, with a few days reaching 80 degrees at the beginning of the month. Cooler temperatures during the last week of the month dropped nighttime lows to the 30s in all areas. Reported rainfall was well above average in all citrus producing counties. Some of the precipitation totals were three times the historical monthly averages. The most rainfall was in the Western and Southern areas. The highest amount reported was in Immokalee (Collier County) at 10.36 inches of rainfall, followed by Joshua (Desoto County) at 9.83 inches of rainfall. The least was in Kenansville (Osceola County) at 5.77 inches of rainfall. According to the February 2, 2016 U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire citrus region is drought free.

Trees in well cared groves looked healthy. Growers were removing dead or dying trees in most areas. Spotty bloom was observed on early variety citrus. All processing plants were open and running at full capacity most of the month. Harvesting was delayed in some areas due to the heavy rainfall across the citrus region. Packinghouses were accepting mostly early and midseason oranges, Honey tangerines, tangelos, and grapefruit. Red grapefruit groves that had been spot picked were being cleaned for processed fruit. Caretakers were hedging and topping trees after harvest. Some growers were fertilizing and spraying. Limited mowing, mostly before harvest, was done on an as needed basis.

California citrus: Mandarin oranges, Cara Cara oranges, lemons, tangerines, tangelos, Gold and Oro Blanco hybrid grapefruit, and pomelo continued to be picked and packed for domestic and foreign markets. Frost protection measures were implemented when the cold weather dictated. Some growers reported keeping immature orange trees covered to protect them from freezing temperatures as well as running wind machines to prevent freeze damage.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Post-harvest pruning, orchard removal, and replanting continued in all deciduous tree fruit orchards, nut orchards, and vineyards. Pushed-out orchards and vineyards continued to be cleaned up with burning, ripping, and fumigation in preparation for spring planting. Post-harvest cultural maintenance was impeded due to rain later in the month. Dormant applications were made where insects and disease were causing problems. Natural condition prunes continued to be packed and shipped. Pomegranates continued to be packed and shipped to domestic and foreign markets. Kiwifruit were packed for the domestic market. Almonds, pistachios, shelled and in-shell walnuts, and shelled pecans continued to be packed and shipped worldwide. Strawberry fields were reported to show ideal growth mid-month. Blueberry bushes were planted as weather permitted.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2015 is forecast at 33.0 million tons, up 9 percent from 2014. Producers intend to harvest 891,700 acres for sugar and seed during the 2015 crop year, up 23,200 acres from 2014. Expected yield for sugar and seed is forecast at 37.1 tons per acre, up 2.1 tons from 2014. 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 59 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 4.1 percent. However, if you exclude the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons), the "Root Mean Square Error" is 4.2 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 4.1 percent, or 4.2 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.2 percent, or 7.3 percent excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the February 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 333,000 tons (331,000 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.

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Information Contacts

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