Crop Production

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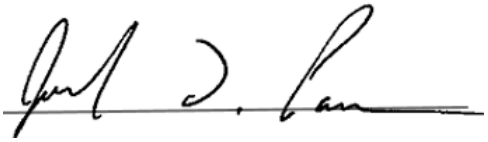
Orange Production Up Slightly from March Forecast

The United States all orange forecast for the 2017-2018 season is 3.90 million tons, up slightly from last month but down 23 percent from the 2016-2017 revised final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 45.0 million boxes (2.03 million tons), is unchanged from last month but down 35 percent from last season's revised final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast, at 19.0 million boxes (855,000 tons), unchanged from last month but down 42 percent from last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 26.0 million boxes (1.17 million tons), is unchanged from last month but down 27 percent from last season's revised final utilization.

The California all orange forecast is 44.5 million boxes (1.78 million tons), unchanged from the previous forecast but down 8 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The California Navel orange forecast, at 35.0 million boxes (1.40 million tons), is unchanged from previous forecast but down 11 percent from last season's final utilization. The California Valencia orange forecast is 9.50 million boxes (380,000 tons), unchanged from last month but up 6 percent from last season's revised final utilization. The Texas all orange forecast, at 2.11 million boxes (90,000 tons), is up 15 percent from the previous forecast and up 54 percent from last season's final utilization.

This report was approved on April 10, 2018.

Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Warren P. Preston



Agricultural Statistics Board
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Joseph L. Parsons

Contents

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Utilized Production of Citrus Fruits by Crop – States and United States: 2016-2017 and Forecasted April 1, 2018

[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	
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2016-2017	2017-2018
	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 boxes)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Oranges				
California, all	48,300	44,500	1,932	1,780
Early, mid, and Navel [2]	39,300	35,000	1,572	1,400
Valencia	9,000	9,500	360	380
Florida, all	68,850	45,000	3,098	2,025
Early, mid, and Navel [2]	33,000	19,000	1,485	855
Valencia	35,850	26,000	1,613	1,170
Texas, all	1,370	2,110	58	90
Early, mid, and Navel [2]	1,090	1,550	46	66
Valencia	280	560	12	24
United States, all	118,520	91,610	5,088	3,895
Early, mid, and Navel [2]	73,390	55,550	3,103	2,321
Valencia	45,130	36,060	1,985	1,574
Grapefruit				
California	4,400	4,000	176	160
Florida, all	7,760	4,000	330	170
Red	6,280	3,250	267	138
White	1,480	750	63	32
Texas	4,800	5,700	192	228
United States	16,960	13,700	698	558
Tangerines and mandarins [3]				
California	23,900	21,000	956	840
Florida	1,620	770	77	37
United States	25,520	21,770	1,033	877
Lemons				
Arizona	1,650	1,300	66	52
California	20,500	20,500	820	820
United States	22,150	21,800	886	872

[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 California-80, Florida-95; lemons-80.
[2] Navel and miscellaneous varieties in California. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in Florida and Texas.
[3] Includes tangelos and tangors.

Crop Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production in Domestic Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
Grains and hay				
Barley	2,481	2,286	1,954	
Corn for grain [1]	90,167	88,026	82,703	
Corn for silage	(NA)		6,434	
Hay, all	(NA)	(NA)	53,784	53,726
Alfalfa	(NA)		16,563	
All other	(NA)		37,221	
Oats	2,588	2,716	801	
Proso millet	478		404	
Rice	2,463	2,690	2,374	
Rye	1,961		286	
Sorghum for grain [1]	5,626	5,932	5,045	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		284	
Wheat, all	46,012	47,339	37,586	
Winter	32,696	32,708	25,291	
Durum	2,307	2,004	2,136	
Other spring	11,009	12,627	10,159	
Oilseeds				
Canola	2,077.0	2,076.0	2,002.0	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	303	225	272	
Mustard seed	103.0		95.4	
Peanuts	1,870.6	1,536.5	1,775.6	
Rapeseed	10.1		9.7	
Safflower	162.0		143.2	
Soybeans for beans	90,142	88,982	89,522	
Sunflower	1,403.0	1,385.0	1,344.7	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all	12,611.5	13,469.0	11,348.9	
Upland	12,360.0	13,207.0	11,101.0	
American Pima	251.5	262.0	247.9	
Sugarbeets	1,131.2	1,112.9	1,114.1	
Sugarcane	(NA)		904.1	
Tobacco	(NA)	(NA)	321.5	309.6
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	26.5	19.0	9.4	
Dry edible beans	2,092.0	2,031.0	2,012.7	
Chickpeas, all	618.8	665.0	599.3	
Large	439.3	479.5	424.5	
Small	179.5	185.5	174.8	
Dry edible peas	1,128.0	908.0	1,050.5	
Lentils	1,104.0	791.0	1,022.0	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	(NA)		53.3	
Maple syrup	(NA)		(NA)	
Mushrooms	(NA)		(NA)	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		60.4	
Potatoes, all	1,034.3		1,025.5	
Spring	58.0	53.0	57.7	
Summer	68.3		65.5	
Fall	908.0		902.3	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		22.3	
Sweet potatoes	161.6	158.5	159.3	
Taro (Hawaii)	(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: 2017 and 2018 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop		Yield per acre		Production	
		2017	2018	2017	2018
				(1,000)	(1,000)
Grains and hay					
Barley	bushels	72.6		141,923	
Corn for grain	bushels	176.6		14,604,067	
Corn for silage	tons	19.9		128,356	
Hay, all	tons	2.44		131,455	
Alfalfa	tons	3.32		55,068	
All other	tons	2.05		76,387	
Oats	bushels	61.7		49,391	
Proso millet	bushels	36.1		14,567	
Rice [2]	cwt	7,507		178,228	
Rye	bushels	33.9		9,696	
Sorghum for grain	bushels	72.1		363,832	
Sorghum for silage	tons	13.3		3,772	
Wheat, all	bushels	46.3		1,740,582	
Winter	bushels	50.2		1,269,437	
Durum	bushels	25.7		54,909	
Other spring	bushels	41.0		416,236	
Oilseeds					
Canola	pounds	1,558		3,118,680	
Cottonseed	tons	(X)		6,725.0	
Flaxseed	bushels	14.1		3,842	
Mustard seed	pounds	632		60,250	
Peanuts	pounds	4,074		7,233,600	
Rapeseed	pounds	2,139		20,750	
Safflower	pounds	1,256		179,896	
Soybeans for beans	bushels	49.1		4,391,553	
Sunflower	pounds	1,613		2,168,737	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops					
Cotton, all [2]	bales	899		21,263.0	
Upland [2]	bales	889		20,570.0	
American Pima [2]	bales	1,342		693.0	
Sugarbeets	tons	31.7		35,325	
Sugarcane	tons	36.8		33,238	
Tobacco	pounds	2,209		710,161	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils					
Austrian winter peas [2]	cwt	1,330		125	
Dry edible beans [2]	cwt	1,781		35,845	
Chickpeas, all [2]	cwt	1,152		6,905	
Large [2]	cwt	1,165		4,945	
Small [2]	cwt	1,121		1,960	
Dry edible peas [2]	cwt	1,350		14,177	
Lentils [2]	cwt	732		7,482	
Wrinkled seed peas	cwt	(NA)		357	
Potatoes and miscellaneous					
Hops	pounds	1,959		104,366.0	
Maple syrup	gallons	(NA)		4,271	
Mushrooms	pounds	(NA)		928,605	
Peppermint oil	pounds	96		5,778	
Potatoes, all	cwt	430		441,307	
Spring	cwt	343		19,790	
Summer	cwt	331		21,679	
Fall	cwt	443		399,838	
Spearmint oil	pounds	125		2,796	
Sweet potatoes	cwt	224		35,646	
Taro (Hawaii)	pounds	10,530		3,686	

(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: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Area planted		Area harvested	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)
Grains and hay				
Barley	1,004,040	925,120	790,760	
Corn for grain [1]	36,489,680	35,623,240	33,469,080	
Corn for silage	(NA)		2,603,780	
Hay, all [2]	(NA)	(NA)	21,765,850	21,742,370
Alfalfa	(NA)		6,702,880	
All other	(NA)		15,062,970	
Oats	1,047,340	1,099,140	324,160	
Proso millet	193,440		163,490	
Rice	996,750	1,088,620	960,730	
Rye	793,600		115,740	
Sorghum for grain [1]	2,276,790	2,400,620	2,041,660	
Sorghum for silage	(NA)		114,930	
Wheat, all [2]	18,620,600	19,157,620	15,210,680	
Winter	13,231,740	13,236,600	10,235,010	
Durum	933,620	811,000	864,420	
Other spring	4,455,230	5,110,020	4,111,250	
Oilseeds				
Canola	840,540	840,140	810,190	
Cottonseed	(X)		(X)	
Flaxseed	122,620	91,060	110,080	
Mustard seed	41,680		38,610	
Peanuts	757,010	621,810	718,570	
Rapeseed	4,090		3,930	
Safflower	65,560		57,950	
Soybeans for beans	36,479,570	36,010,130	36,228,660	
Sunflower	567,780	560,500	544,190	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all [2]	5,103,750	5,450,770	4,592,790	
Upland	5,001,970	5,344,740	4,492,460	
American Pima	101,780	106,030	100,320	
Sugarbeets	457,790	450,380	450,870	
Sugarcane	(NA)		365,880	
Tobacco	(NA)	(NA)	130,100	125,280
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	10,720	7,690	3,800	
Dry edible beans	846,610	821,930	814,520	
Chickpeas [2]	250,420	269,120	242,530	
Large	177,780	194,050	171,790	
Small	72,640	75,070	70,740	
Dry edible peas	456,490	367,460	425,130	
Lentils	446,780	320,110	413,590	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		(NA)	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	(NA)		21,560	
Maple syrup	(NA)		(NA)	
Mushrooms	(NA)		(NA)	
Peppermint oil	(NA)		24,440	
Potatoes, all [2]	418,570		415,010	
Spring	23,470	21,450	23,350	
Summer	27,640		26,510	
Fall	367,460		365,150	
Spearmint oil	(NA)		9,020	
Sweet potatoes	65,400	64,140	64,470	
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: 2017 and 2018 (continued)

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Yield per hectare		Production	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Grains and hay				
Barley	3.91		3,090,010	
Corn for grain	11.08		370,960,390	
Corn for silage	44.72		116,442,600	
Hay, all [2]	5.48		119,253,970	
Alfalfa	7.45		49,956,850	
All other	4.60		69,297,120	
Oats	2.21		716,910	
Proso millet	2.02		330,370	
Rice	8.41		8,084,290	
Rye	2.13		246,290	
Sorghum for grain	4.53		9,241,760	
Sorghum for silage	29.77		3,421,900	
Wheat, all [2]	3.11		47,370,880	
Winter	3.38		34,548,410	
Durum	1.73		1,494,380	
Other spring	2.76		11,328,090	
Oilseeds				
Canola	1.75		1,414,610	
Cottonseed	(X)		6,100,820	
Flaxseed	0.89		97,590	
Mustard seed	0.71		27,330	
Peanuts	4.57		3,281,110	
Rapeseed	2.40		9,410	
Safflower	1.41		81,600	
Soybeans for beans	3.30		119,518,490	
Sunflower	1.81		983,720	
Cotton, tobacco, and sugar crops				
Cotton, all [2]	1.01		4,629,470	
Upland	1.00		4,478,590	
American Pima	1.50		150,880	
Sugarbeets	71.08		32,046,300	
Sugarcane	82.41		30,153,010	
Tobacco	2.48		322,120	
Dry beans, peas, and lentils				
Austrian winter peas	1.49		5,670	
Dry edible beans	2.00		1,625,900	
Chickpeas, all [2]	1.29		313,210	
Large	1.31		224,300	
Small	1.26		88,900	
Dry edible peas	1.51		643,060	
Lentils	0.82		339,380	
Wrinkled seed peas	(NA)		16,190	
Potatoes and miscellaneous				
Hops	2.20		47,340	
Maple syrup	(NA)		21,360	
Mushrooms	(NA)		421,210	
Peppermint oil	0.11		2,620	
Potatoes, all [2]	48.23		20,017,350	
Spring	38.44		897,660	
Summer	37.10		983,340	
Fall	49.67		18,136,350	
Spearmint oil	0.14		1,270	
Sweet potatoes	25.08		1,616,880	
Taro (Hawaii)	11.80		1,670	

(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: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2017-2018 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop		Production	
		2017	2018
Citrus [1]			
Grapefruit	1,000 tons	698	558
Lemons	1,000 tons	886	872
Oranges	1,000 tons	5,088	3,895
Tangerines and mandarins	1,000 tons	1,033	877
Noncitrus			
Apples	million pounds	10,444.0	
Apricots	tons	55,500	
Avocados	tons		
Bananas (Hawaii)	1,000 pounds		
Blackberries (Oregon)	1,000 pounds		
Blueberries, Cultivated	1,000 pounds		
Blueberries, Wild (Maine)	1,000 pounds		
Boysenberries (Oregon)	1,000 pounds		
Cherries, Sweet	tons	432,760	
Cherries, Tart	million pounds	238.2	
Coffee (Hawaii)	1,000 pounds	24,966	
Cranberries	barrel	9,050,000	
Dates	tons		
Figs (California)	tons		
Grapes	tons	7,505,300	
Kiwifruit (California)	tons		
Nectarines	tons		
Olives (California)	tons		
Papayas (Hawaii)	1,000 pounds		
Peaches	tons	735,200	
Pears	tons	707,000	
Plums (California)	tons		
Prunes (California)	tons	105,000	
Raspberries, all	1,000 pounds		
Strawberries	1,000 cwt	31,992	
Nuts and miscellaneous			
Almonds, shelled (California)	1,000 pounds	2,250,000	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	tons	36,000	
Macadamias (Hawaii)	1,000 pounds		
Pecans, in-shell	1,000 pounds	277,400	
Pistachios (California)	1,000 pounds		
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	tons	650,000	

[1] Production years are 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

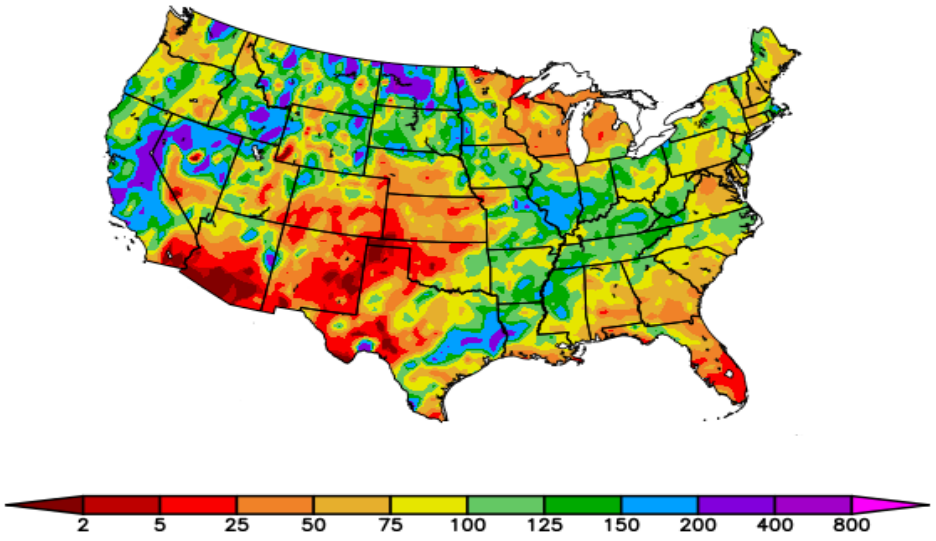
Fruits and Nuts Production in Metric Units – United States: 2017 and 2018

[Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2018 crop year, except citrus which is for the 2017-2018 season. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop	Production	
	2017	2018
	(metric tons)	(metric tons)
Citrus [1]		
Grapefruit	633,210	506,210
Lemons	803,770	791,070
Oranges	4,615,760	3,533,480
Tangerines and mandarins	937,120	795,600
Noncitrus		
Apples	4,737,320	
Apricots	50,350	
Avocados		
Bananas (Hawaii)		
Blackberries (Oregon)		
Blueberries, Cultivated		
Blueberries, Wild (Maine)		
Boysenberries (Oregon)		
Cherries, Sweet	392,590	
Cherries, Tart	108,050	
Coffee (Hawaii)	11,320	
Cranberries	410,500	
Dates		
Figs (California)		
Grapes	6,808,690	
Kiwifruit (California)		
Nectarines		
Olives (California)		
Papayas (Hawaii)		
Peaches	666,960	
Pears	641,380	
Plums (California)		
Prunes (California)	95,250	
Raspberries, all		
Strawberries	1,451,100	
Nuts and miscellaneous		
Almonds, shelled (California)	1,020,580	
Hazelnuts, in-shell (Oregon)	32,660	
Macadamias (Hawaii)		
Pecans, in-shell	125,830	
Pistachios (California)		
Walnuts, in-shell (California)	589,670	

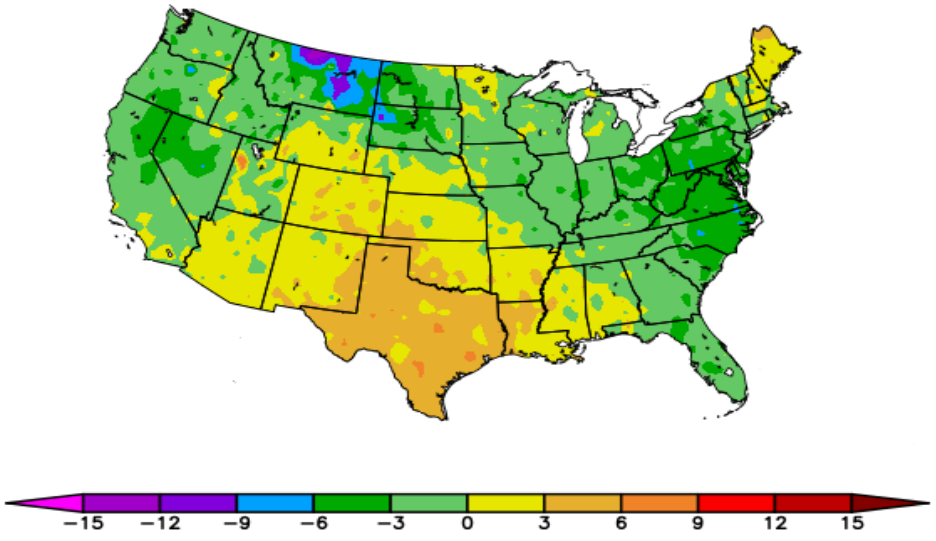
[1] Production years are 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/1/2018 – 3/31/2018



NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/1/2018 – 3/31/2018



NOAA Regional Climate Centers

March Weather Summary

A late-season barrage of storms nearly quadrupled the average water content of the Sierra Nevada snowpack between mid-February and the end of March, and generally improved runoff and water-supply prospects in California and other areas of the West, including the Great Basin and the Intermountain region.

Cold, stormy weather also prevailed across the northern High Plains, further easing long-term drought and keeping much of the winter wheat crop insulated beneath a protective blanket of snow. Monthly temperatures averaged at least 5 to 10°F below normal in many locations across Montana and western North Dakota.

In contrast, drought further intensified across the southern High Plains, fueling a rash of wildfires and maintaining significant stress on rangeland, pastures, and winter grains. By April 1, Texas led the nation among major winter wheat production states with 59 percent of its crop rated in very poor to poor condition, followed by Kansas (47 percent) and Oklahoma (46 percent). In addition, March warmth broadly covered the south-central U.S., with temperatures averaging at least 5°F above normal in much of Texas and parts of neighboring states.

Several other areas, including the upper Midwest and the southern Atlantic region, also experienced a very dry March. Florida led the Southeastern States with topsoil moisture rated 58 percent very short to short on April 1. On the same date, topsoil moisture was at least one-half very short to short in New Mexico (93 percent), Kansas (68 percent), Colorado (62 percent), Oklahoma (60 percent), and Texas (54 percent).

Elsewhere, several March storms delivered rain, snow, and high winds to the Northeast, while late-month rain halted fieldwork in much of the western Gulf Coast region and brought the return of lowland flooding to portions of the mid-South and lower Midwest.

March Agricultural Summary

Dry conditions continued for another month in the lower Great Plains and Rockies, worsening drought conditions in Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, northern Texas, and Utah. The eastern States fared much better during March, as precipitation fell over much of the area between the Gulf Coast and Ohio Valley. In the West, much of the wet weather was concentrated in the northern Sierra Nevada range, where areas received 6 or more inches of above normal precipitation. March was cooler than average for much of the Nation. A string of nor'easters brought chilly temperatures to the Mid-Atlantic, where average temperatures were 3°F or more below normal in many States. Temperatures were warmer than average in the South Central States, with nearly all of Texas recording average temperatures 3°F or more above normal.

On April 1, thirty-two percent of the 2018 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 51 percent at the same time last year. In Kansas, 13 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition on March 4, but dropped to 10 percent rated good and none rated in excellent condition as of April 1. In Texas, 10 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition on March 4, but rose to 15 percent of the crop in good to excellent condition as of April 1.

In Oklahoma and Texas, which have been affected by a winter-long drought, 45 percent and 40 percent of pasture and rangeland was rated in very poor to poor condition on March 4, respectively. On April 1, conditions had improved in Oklahoma with 34 percent of the acreage rated very poor to poor. Twenty-seven percent of the Texas acreage was rated in very poor to poor condition as of April 1. Similar drought conditions in the Southwest pushed Arizona's pasture and rangeland condition to 62 percent in very poor to poor condition on March 4, and conditions continued to decline to 72 percent rated very poor to poor on April 1.

March was relatively dry and cool in Florida, with drought conditions being reported in the southern part of the State and along the border with Georgia. Due to a few frosts and limited rain in numerous counties, pasture condition remained poor to fair throughout the month, leading producers to give supplemental feed. However, cattle condition was fair to good. Hay and sugarcane was harvested, and crop producers began preparing their fields and planting. Citrus grove operations

were normal, and tangerines, tangelos, and Valencias were harvested. The grapefruit harvested continued, with a slightly larger amount going to processing plants than fresh markets.

Crop Comments

Grapefruit: The United States 2017-2018 grapefruit crop is forecast at 558,000 tons, up 5 percent from last month but 20 percent below last season's revised final utilization. In Florida, expected production, at 4.00 million boxes (170,000 tons), is down 14 percent from last month and down 48 percent from last year.

Tangerines and mandarins: The United States tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 877,000 tons, down 1 percent from last month and down 15 percent from last season's final utilization. The California forecast, at 21.0 million boxes (840,000 tons), is unchanged from last month but down 12 percent from the 2016-2017 season. The Florida tangerine and mandarin forecast, at 770,000 boxes (37,000 tons) is down 13 percent from last month and down 52 percent from the previous year.

Lemons: The forecast for the 2017-2018 United States lemon crop is 872,000 tons, up slightly from last month but down 2 percent from last season's final utilization. The California production forecast, at 20.5 million boxes (820,000 tons), is unchanged from both last month and from 2016-2017.

Florida citrus: In the citrus growing region, daily high temperatures were average or above on most days, frequently reaching the low 70s to mid-80s, while nighttime lows ranged from the low 40s to mid-60s. Sebring (Highlands County), Lake Alfred (Polk County), Palmdale (Glades County), and Vero Beach (Indian River County) all had temperatures of at least 88 degrees during the month. Monthly rainfall totals were below historical averages. More than half of the monitored citrus stations had less than an inch of rainfall during the month. Only Apopka (Orange County) and Umatilla (Lake County) had over two inches. According to the March 29, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, the dryness is taking its toll, expanding the abnormally dry conditions far into the Western area, and prompting moderate drought conditions into portions of the Northern, Central, and Southern areas. Only Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, and Marion counties remain drought free.

Grove operations included some hedging and topping after harvest. Petal drop was over in most areas. Pea size and larger fruit has formed on the trees on all varieties. Initial fruit drop has started on early varieties as the trees are beginning to set next season's crop. Grower's sprayed nutritionals and fertilizers as needed for the health of the fruit and trees. Irrigation was running on a regular basis. Weekly orange harvest has not surpassed two and half-million boxes all season. According to the Market News Bulletin, dated March 26, 2018, "all plants continue to monitor maturity levels of Valencias, and have been adjusting loads accordingly." Fresh harvest is nearing an end on some varieties. White grapefruit and red grapefruit harvest is relatively done for the season. Mandarin harvest has slowed, but still included a small amount of Royal and Honey tangerines. Houses will continue to pack Valencia oranges as long as they are available.

California citrus: The harvesting of late variety Navel oranges continued, while Valencia orange harvest began. Seedless Mandarins and Murcotts continued to be covered with netting to prevent cross pollination. Young citrus trees were pruned. Citrus groves continued to be hedge rowed, topped, and skirted.

California noncitrus fruits and nuts: Irrigation continued in vineyards and stone fruit orchards. Herbicide applications were made to control weeds. Apricots, nectarines, pluots, plums, and peaches bloomed and leafed out. Fruit was developing on most stone fruit trees. Cherry bloom continued. Apples and pears were leafing out and beginning to bloom. Grapes leafed out. Olives continued to be pruned. Hass avocado harvest continued. Blueberries were blooming. Almond trees were leafing out and nutlets were showing on early varieties. Pruning was ongoing in walnut and pistachio orchards. Walnuts were pushing catkins and were treated for blight. Pistachios were showing bud bread.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The orange objective yield survey for the April 1 forecast was conducted in Florida, which produces about 61 percent of the United States production last season. In August and September of last year, the number of bearing trees and number of fruit per tree is determined. In August 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 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 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 April 1 forecast.

Revision policy: The April 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 August. 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 April 1 production forecasts, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the April 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 April 1 orange production forecast is 3.0 percent. However, if you exclude the three abnormal production years (one freeze season and two hurricane seasons), the “Root Mean Square Error” is 3.3 percent. This means chances are 2 out of 3 that the current orange production forecast will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.0 percent, or 3.3 percent excluding abnormal seasons. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.2 percent, or 5.7 percent, excluding abnormal seasons.

Changes between the April 1 orange forecast and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 174,000 tons (191,000 tons, excluding abnormal seasons), ranging from 0 to 502,000 tons regardless of exclusions. The April 1 forecast for oranges has been below the final estimate 8 times, above 11 times, and equal to once (below 6 times, above 10 times, and equal to once excluding abnormal seasons). The difference does not imply that the April 1 forecast this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service 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

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch ..... (202) 720-2127

Anthony Prillaman, Head, Field Crops Section ..... (202) 720-2127
- Chris Hawthorn – Corn, Flaxseed, Proso Millet ..... (202) 720-9526
- James Johanson – County Estimates, Hay ..... (202) 690-8533
- Jeff Lemmons – Oats, Soybeans ..... (202) 690-3234
- Sammy Neal – Peanuts, Rice ..... (202) 720-7688
- Joshua O'Rear – Crop Weather, Barley ..... (202) 720-7621
- Jean Porter – Rye, Wheat ..... (202) 720-8068
- Bianca Pruneda – Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum ..... (202) 720-5944
- Travis Thorson – Sunflower, Other Oilseeds ..... (202) 720-7369

Jorge Garcia-Pratts, Head, Fruits, Vegetables and Special Crops Section ..... (202) 720-2127
- Vincent Davis – Apricots, Bananas, Cherries, Garlic, Lettuce, Mint, Papaya, Pears, Strawberries, Tomatoes ..... (202) 720-2157
- Fleming Gibson – Avocados, Cauliflower, Celery, Citrus, Coffee, Dates, Figs, Kiwifruit, Nectarines, Olives, Green Peas, Taro, Watermelons ..... (202) 720-5412
- Greg Lemmons – Blackberries, Blueberries, Boysenberries, Cranberries, Cucumbers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Raspberries, Squash, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Sweet Potatoes ..... (202) 720-4285
- Dan Norris – Artichokes, Austrian Winter Peas, Cantaloupes, Dry Beans, Dry Edible Peas, Honeydews, Lentils, Mushrooms, Peaches, Snap Beans ..... (202) 720-3250
- Daphne Schauber – Bell Peppers, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chile Peppers, Floriculture, Grapes, Hops, Maple Syrup, Tree Nuts, Spinach ..... (202) 720-4215
- Chris Singh – Apples, Asparagus, Carrots, Lima Beans, Onions, Plums, Prunes, Sweet Corn, Tobacco ..... (202) 720-4288

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on "National" or "State" in upper right corner above "search" box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312-464-8787

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2018 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php). Contact Tina Hall (NASS) at 202-720-3896 or tina.hall@nass.usda.gov or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov for information.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (http://lmic.info/page/meetings) or contact James Robb at 303-716-9933.