



# California Association of Wheat Growers

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## Newsletter

April 23, 2010

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### **Agricultural Vehicle Labeling Deadline - May 1, 2010**

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By May 1, 2010, fleet owners that reported vehicles that qualify for the agriculture vehicle provisions in the Truck & Bus regulation are required to affix labels to both doors of qualifying agricultural vehicles. Section 2025(m)(9) requires that within 30 days of the March 31, 2010 initial reporting date, fleet owners must permanently affix or paint an AG identification label on each low-mileage and limited-mileage agricultural vehicle reported to the Air Resources Board. The label must consist of the letters "AG" in white block letters at least three inches high and be placed on a black background five inches high by eight inches wide. Labels must be placed on the left and right door of each vehicle and must be in clear view at all times. The label must be maintained in a manner that retains its legibility while the vehicle continues to utilize the agricultural vehicle exemption.

Under the provisions of the Truck and Bus regulation, vehicles reported as specialty agricultural vehicles will undergo a selection process to ensure that the limitations of no more than 2,200 vehicles statewide and 1,100 in the San Joaquin Valley are exceeded. The selection process, as defined in the Truck & Bus regulation, will begin as soon as all reports are processed and will be completed some time this summer or fall. For more information, please see the Truck & Bus Regulation Agricultural Vehicle Provisions fact sheet at [www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/documents/tbagfs.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/documents/tbagfs.pdf).

Because it is possible that some vehicles that were reported as eligible for the specialty vehicle exemption may not ultimately be approved for the exemption, an exception will be made regarding the labeling timeline requirement. Vehicles that were identified as eligible for the specialty vehicle status and were also reported as able to stay below the mileage thresholds will qualify for the agricultural vehicle provisions regardless of whether or not the vehicle is ultimately approved for the specialty vehicle exemption; therefore, these vehicles must be labeled within 30 days. However, a vehicle that was reported as eligible for the specialty vehicle exemption but cannot operate below the agricultural vehicle mileage thresholds (does not qualify for the low- or limited-use agricultural vehicle provisions) will not be required to be labeled until they have received confirmation from the Executive Officer that the vehicle has been approved for the specialty vehicle exemption. The Executive Officer will inform all applicants whether or not the vehicle has been approved for the exemption after any discrepancies in the reported information has been verified.

For more information about the regulation, please visit our website at:  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck>

### **NAWG Farm Bill Survey**

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The Farm bill survey deadline has been extended.

We are requesting your participation in this survey to initiate the development of farm policy for the 2012 Farm Bill. If you have any questions regarding this survey please contact the CAWG office at: 916-492-7066.

There are two methods by which you can complete these surveys.

- 1) Online - [www.surveymonkey.com/s/NAWGDataMining](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NAWGDataMining) will direct you to the survey automatically and tabulate your responses within the system.
- 2) Hard Copy version (enclosed).

The preferred method of completion is online. However, if you complete the survey using the word document, please send your surveys to the CAWG office at: **1521 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 by April 27, 2010.**

### **USDA's Farm Service Agency Reminds Producers to File Annual Report of Acreage to Meet Farm Program Requirements**

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WASHINGTON, April 22, 2010 - USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Jonathan Coppess today reminded producers to submit their annual report of acreage to their local FSA county office to meet FSA program eligibility requirements.

"Producers must file their reports accurately and timely for all crops and land uses, including prevented and failed acreage, to ensure they receive the maximum FSA program benefits possible," said Coppess.

Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program and newer programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Programs include the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

Acreage reports are considered timely filed when completed by the applicable final crop reporting deadline, which may vary from state to state. Prevented acreage must be reported within 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failed acreage must be reported before the disposition of the crop. Producers should contact their county FSA office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

Late-filed provisions may be available to producers who are unable to meet the reporting deadline as required. Reports filed after the established deadline must meet certain requirements to be accepted and may be charged late fees.

Producers should visit their county FSA office to complete acreage reporting. For questions on this or any FSA program, including specific crop reporting deadlines and planting dates, producers should contact their county FSA office. More information on FSA programs is at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **California Field Crop Review**

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### March 1, 2010 Prospective Plantings

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California's March intentions estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,500 California farmers. The survey was conducted March 1-15, but referred to farmers' intentions on March 1. Therefore, the impact of weather or market conditions since that date is not reflected in this report.

**COTTON:** On March 1, California farmers were intending to plant 100.0 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2010. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 165 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2010, 39 percent above the 119 thousand acres planted last year. Nationally, all cotton plantings for 2010 are expected to total 10.5 million acres, up 15 percent from last year.

**CORN:** California farmers were expected to plant 650 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, an increase of 18 percent from last year. U.S. corn growers intend to plant 88.8 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, up 3 percent from both last year

and 2008.

**OATS:** On March 1, farmers in California had planted or expected to plant 240 thousand acres of oats, 4 percent less than in 2009. U.S. growers intend to plant an estimated 3.36 million acres, down 1 percent from last years planted area of 3.40 million acres. If realized, this will be the second lowest planted acreage on record.

**WHEAT:** In California, winter wheat has been seeded on 600 thousand acres, 2 percent above the previous year. Another 115 thousand acres has been seeded to Durum wheat, 36 percent below the amount planted in 2009. At the U.S. level, 2010's all wheat planted area is expected to total 53.8 million acres, down 9 percent from 2009. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 37.7 million acres, 13 percent below last year, but up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 2.2 million acres, down 13 percent from the previous year.

**RICE:** California farmers intended to seed rice on 600 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 7 percent above the 561 thousand acres seeded in 2009. The expressed intentions were to seed 540 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 10.0 thousand to long grain and 50.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Nationally, growers intended to seed 3.41 million acres, up 9 percent from 2009.

**BARLEY:** On March 1, California farmers had planted or intended to plant 100.0 thousand acres to barley, 11 percent above the previous year. U.S. growers intended to seed 3.27 million acres for 2010, down 8 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest barley planted acreage on record, well below the previous record low of 3.45 million acres established in 2006.

**SUGAR BEETS:** California producers had planted or intended to plant 25.0 thousand acres of sugar beets, as of March 1, down slightly from the 2009 crop year. Nationally, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2010 crop year is expected to total 1.17 million acres, down 1 percent from the 2009 planted acreage.

**DRY EDIBLE BEANS:** On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 63.5 thousand acres in California, 7 percent below last year. Nationally, farmers intend to plant 1.77 million acres of dry edible beans in 2010, up 15 percent from last year.

**ALL HAY:** California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.5 million acres as of March 1, down 1 percent from the 1.52 million acres harvested last year. U.S. producers expect to harvest 60.5 million acres of hay in 2010, up 1 percent from 2009.

**SWEET POTATOES:** California growers intended to plant 18.5 thousand acres in 2010, up 6 percent from 2009. U.S. growers intend to plant 117 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, up 7 percent from last year.

## California Field Crop Prices - March 2010

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for all hay and other hay. All potatoes and fall potatoes were below the previous month. Alfalfa hay remained the same as the previous month. A mid-month price for wheat, barley, dry edible beans and upland cotton lint was not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations.

Prices were below a year earlier for all potatoes, fall potatoes, and all types of hay.

## U.S. Prices Received Index

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 141 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 6 points (4.4 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (5.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (4.1 percent). Producers received higher prices for onions, lettuce, eggs, and cattle and lower prices for milk, corn, soybeans, and apples. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, broilers, and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 15 points (12 percent) from March 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 143, increased 10 points (7.5 percent) from last month and increased 21 points (17 percent) from March 2009.

The March All Crops Index is 155, up 5.4 percent from February and March 2009. Index increases for commercial vegetables, fruits & nuts, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decreases for feed grains & hay, oil-bearing crops, food grains, and cotton.

The March Food Grains Index, at 171, is 0.6 percent below the previous month and 15 percent lower than a year ago. The March all wheat price at \$154.33 per ton, is down \$3.34 from February, and \$36.00 below March 2009.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 151, down 1.3 percent from last month, and 11 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$124.64 per ton, is down \$2.15 from last month, and \$12.86 below March 2009. The all hay price, at \$108.00 per ton, is up \$1.00 from February, but down \$21.00 from last March. Sorghum grain, at \$5.34 per cwt., is 10 cents below February and 3 cents lower than March last year.

The March Cotton Index, at 105, is down 1.9 percent from February, but 57 percent above last year. The March price, at 63.9 cents per pound, is down 1.1 cents from the previous month, but up 23.5 cents from last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 133, is up 1.5 percent from last month, but 17 percent below March 2009. The all potato price, at \$7.46 per cwt., is up 12 cents from February, but down \$1.81 from last March. The all dry bean price, at \$30.80 per cwt., is up 50 cents from the previous month, but \$1.70 below March 2009.

#### Grain Stocks

On March 1, 2010 California wheat stocks in all positions totaled 317 thousand tons, 12 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm corn stocks were 11 percent below March 2009. Barley off-farm stocks were 18 percent above March 2009. Oats totaled 2.64 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1.

U.S. wheat stocks in all positions were 30 percent above a year earlier as of March 1. Oat stocks were up 3 percent, and barley stocks were 22 percent above a year earlier. U.S. corn stocks in all positions totaled 215.4 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 4.91 million tons.

#### **DTN Sets ACRE Webinar for Those Considering Enrollment in 2010**

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DTN is planning a webinar for producers who are trying to consider if they should enroll in the ACRE program for the remainder of the 2008 Farm Bill.

The session will cover how well ACRE, which stands for Average Crop Revenue Election, protected crop revenue for 2009 and what the outlook is for 2010 through 2012.

Presenters will include Farm Service Agency ACRE expert Brent Orr and Ohio State University economist Carl Zulauf, who also presented on a similar webinar last year. NAWG and the National Corn Growers Association are cosponsoring the event.

The webinar will be originally broadcast Thursday, May 6, at 7 a.m. Central time. Producers can learn more and sign up at [http://about.dtnpf.com/ag/news\\_events/events/webinars/index.cfm#reb](http://about.dtnpf.com/ag/news_events/events/webinars/index.cfm#reb).

The new ACRE program, established in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides payments when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss according to a complex formula taking into account state yield and a two-year national average price.

In exchange for participating in ACRE, producers agree to forgo the counter-cyclical program, take a 20 percent reduction in the direct payment and a 30 percent reduction in marketing assistance loan rates. Once enrolled in ACRE, a farm must be in the program through the 2012 crop year. The next sign-up deadline for ACRE is June 1.

The Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) estimated this week that wheat growers will receive \$245 million of the \$294 million of ACRE payments to be made

on 12 major commodities during the 2009-2010 crop year. The high payments were the result of large drops in price and yield in wheat, compared to other crops.

FAPRI offers an ACRE calculator that has been updated as of April 9, available online at [http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/farmers\\_corner/tools/acre.asp](http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/farmers_corner/tools/acre.asp).

For the full release from FAPRI is at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/news/DisplayStory.aspx?N=735>.

### **I Love Farmers; They Feed my Soul**

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"I Love Farmers" is a nonprofit group of young agriculture students and farmers dedicated to their involvement in the next generation of farming and agricultural business. They have given farming a fresh and exciting look and are engaged in social media communication and overall promotion of the importance of farmers.

To make donations and or find out more about their mission check out their website at:

[ilovefarmers.org](http://ilovefarmers.org)