

Results of the 2020 Mid-Season Crop Surveys

The California Avocado Commission (CAC) would like to thank all of the industry stakeholders who participated in the recently concluded California Avocado Grower Crop Estimate Survey. Due to the pandemic, crop survey forms were mailed out at the beginning of April (a bit earlier than usual), with a return date of April 30, 2020. This year, thanks in large part to cooperation from California avocado grove managers, we received reporting representing nearly 25,600 planted acres, the highest response rate of planted acres since 2015. Completed survey responses captured the highly diverse California industry, with groves of all size, location and growing condition well represent-

ed. It is for these reasons, CAC believes the overall survey results depict a fairly accurate snapshot of the industry and the current crop.

The results of the 2020 mid-season update have yielded a crop volume of 373.65 million pounds (all varieties), just over four million pounds more than the pre-season handler estimate of 369 million pounds. As a way of cross-checking the grower survey results, CAC also conducts a mid-season handler survey, which this year also resulted in a crop

Variety	CAC Acres	Estimated Yield		Response %
		Lbs/Acre	Lbs (MM)	
Hass	47,726	7,547	360.21	48%
Lamb-Hass	1,562	5,949	9.29	49%
Other	852	4,873	4.15	44%
Total	50,140	7,452	373.65	48%

size of 373 million pounds (results are computed based on an average of individual handler survey responses). Follow up discussions with the industry regarding the results of these surveys indicate there could potentially be more fruit on the trees – possibly up to 400 million pounds.

Included here are details of the 2020 mid-season California Avocado Grower Crop Estimate Survey, which contain variety breakdowns and production by county. A few important items to note when reviewing county production details — historically the crop estimate for San Diego County has been overstated, while Ventura and Santa Barbara counties are typically underestimated. Despite these discrepancies, the mid-season estimate has proven accurate, within 3%, during the last five years.

County	Hass Only			All Varieties		
	CAC Acres	Estimated Yield		CAC Acres	Estimated Yield	
		Lbs/Acre	Lbs (MM)		Lbs/Acre	Lbs (MM)
San Diego	15,260	8,203	125.17	16,156	8,045	129.98
Riverside	4,494	5,642	25.36	4,570	5,606	25.62
Orange	904	5,910	5.34	943	4,854	5.52
Ventura	16,763	6,879	115.30	17,837	6,843	122.06
Santa Barbara	5,822	8,785	51.14	6,013	8,613	51.79
San Luis Obispo	3,890	9,042	35.17	3,948	9,051	35.73
Minor Counties	593	4,576	2.71	673	4,374	2.94

**2020 California Crop Weekly Harvest Projection
Weekly Crop Movement vs. Distribution Projections
All Varieties**

Week Ending (CAC Week)	4-Year Historical Forecast 2020 Crop Estimate	AMRIC Handler Forecast May 2020 Update	Industry Adjusted AMRIC Harvest
Through April 26	105,060,100	108,131,600	107,871,584
May 3 - (27)	16,903,500	11,154,600	
May 10 - (28)	15,823,200	14,518,800	
May 17 - (29)	16,312,500	14,992,800	
May 24 - (30)	17,923,700	16,503,300	
May 31 - (31)	17,104,600	15,730,400	
Jun 7 - (32)	15,110,000	14,006,800	
Jun 14 - (33)	16,858,300	15,688,800	
Jun 21 - (34)	17,754,900	16,487,600	
Jun 28 - (35)	17,024,400	15,751,400	
Jul 5 - (36)	17,578,200	14,163,600	
Jul 12 - (37)	16,410,700	13,601,000	
Jul 19 - (38)	15,887,500	13,216,300	
Jul 26 - (39)	12,604,900	10,511,000	
Aug 2 - (40)	10,048,300	9,870,500	
Aug 9 - (41)	8,464,600	11,130,500	
Aug 16 - (42)	7,533,300	10,346,900	
Aug 23 - (43)	6,154,000	9,714,400	
Aug 30 - (44)	5,176,500	8,160,400	
Sep 6 - (45)	3,233,000	9,397,500	
Sep 13 - (46)	2,491,000	5,722,600	
Sep 20 - (47)	2,436,000	5,724,000	
Sep 27 - (48)	2,037,600	4,783,700	
Oct 4 - (49)	1,089,700	1,507,500	
Oct 11 - (50)	640,000	894,700	
Oct 18 - (51)	270,900	396,000	
Oct 25 - (52)	266,400	388,300	
Nov 1 - (1)	155,900	224,100	
Nov 8 - (2)	7,700	8,900	
Nov 15 - (3)	3,800	4,500	
Nov 22 - (4)	40,600	47,800	
Nov 29 - (5)	24,100	28,400	
Dec 6 - (6)	23,600	1,600	
Dec 13 - (7)	52,800	72,200	
Dec 20 - (8)	263,300	65,200	
Dec 27 - (9)	230,300	52,300	
Crop Size	373,000,000	373,000,000	

In addition to total industry volume, CAC also surveys handlers on harvest distribution projections for the remaining months of the season, utilizing this data to compile weekly harvest projections. With actual harvest of about 108 million pounds (29% of the total crop volume) through April, handlers estimated that the months of May through July will see the bulk of the crop harvested (50%). Projections indicate the majority of the remaining crop will be off by the end of September, however volume from northern growing regions is expected through October.

While crop estimating can be difficult to perfect, CAC management continually reviews, monitors and evaluates the available datasets to assess the California crop in an effort to provide the industry with the most accurate and timely statistics possible. In addition to informing the industry of the coming crop volume, tracking both crop volume and timing of harvest on an on-going basis helps ensure the Commission's marketing programs are supporting California growers and their fruit while our product is in season. Whether the final harvest volume is 373 or 400 million pounds, these mid-season estimates have confirmed for CAC that the industry is on track for a sizeable crop that will provide loyal California customers with premium quality product throughout summer and into the fall.

Details of both the grower and handler mid-season surveys and projections are found within this article, with additional details found on CAC's grower website at CaliforniaAvocadoGrowers.com/industry/crop-statistics/current-crop-estimates. 🍷

2020 California Crop Harvest Projection					Apr 2020 Handler Survey Hass Distribution
Month	Hass	Lamb	Other	Total	
Jan	7,131,071	-	494,500	7,625,571	2.0%
Feb	23,974,543	-	284,300	24,258,843	6.6%
Mar	33,032,186	-	211,500	33,243,686	9.2%
Apr	48,917,600	2,200	669,300	49,589,100	13.6%
May	63,391,600	24,200	329,600	63,745,400	17.6%
Jun	62,886,500	761,400	286,700	63,934,600	17.4%
Jul	54,223,500	5,912,100	295,600	60,431,200	15.0%
Aug	41,041,600	1,727,100	83,500	42,852,200	11.4%
Sep	23,131,700	433,300	62,900	23,627,900	6.4%
Oct	3,269,700	139,700	1,200	3,410,600	0.9%
Nov	-	-	89,600	89,600	0.0%
Dec	-	-	191,300	191,300	0.0%
Total	361,000,000	9,000,000	3,000,000	373,000,000	100%