

ALL ORANGE PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM JANUARY

WASHINGTON (February 9, 2010) USDA -- The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2009-10 season is 7.94 million tons, down 3 percent from the January 1 forecast and down 14 percent from the 2008-09 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 129 million boxes (5.81 million tons), is down 4 percent from the previous forecast and down 21 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 66.0 million boxes (2.97 million tons), down 4 percent from January 1 and 22 percent lower than last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 63.0 million boxes (2.84 million tons), is 5 percent below the previous forecast and down 19 percent from the 2008-09 crop. Eight days of sub-freezing temperatures were recorded during the period of January 5-13, 2010. A freeze damage survey was conducted January 26-27, 2010. Additional assessments will be made through mid-March. Fruit size decreased for the early, midseason, and Navel varieties, while fruit drop increased. Fruit size has been below average for the Valencia crop all season.

Florida frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) yield forecast for the 2009-10 season is 1.56 gallons per box at 42.0 degrees Brix, down 3 percent from the January 1 forecast and down 6 percent from last season's final yield of 1.66 gallons per box. The early-midseason portion is projected at 1.50 gallons per box, down 6 percent from last season's record yield of 1.60 gallons per box. The Valencia portion is expected to total 1.65 gallons per box, 6 percent lower than last year's final yield of 1.75 gallons per box. All projections of yield assume the processing relationship this season will be similar to those of the past several seasons.

Grapefruit: The forecast of the 2009-10 U.S. grapefruit crop is 1.16 million tons, down 3 percent from the January 1 forecast and down 13 percent from the 2008-09 final utilization. Florida's grapefruit production is forecast at 18.8 million boxes (799,000 tons), down 4 percent from the January 1 forecast and 13 percent below last season.

The Florida all white grapefruit forecast is 5.30 million boxes (225,000 tons), down 4 percent from January and down 20 percent from the previous year. The colored grapefruit forecast, at 13.5 million boxes (574,000 tons), is down 4 percent from the January 1 forecast and 11 percent lower than last season. The decrease is due to a slowing of the grapefruit growth rate. California and Texas grapefruit production forecasts are carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Tangerines and Mandarins: The U.S. tangerine and mandarin crop is forecast at 511,000 tons, down 6 percent from the January 1 forecast but 15 percent above the 2008-09 crop. Florida's tangerine crop is forecast at 4.00 million boxes (190,000 tons), down 15 percent from the January 1 forecast but up 4 percent from the previous season. Harvest of the later maturing Honey variety is well underway and fruit size measurements are down. Arizona and California tangerine and mandarin production forecasts are carried forward from the January 1 forecast.

Tangelos: Florida's tangelo forecast is 900,000 boxes (41,000 tons), unchanged from the January 1 forecast but down 22 percent from last season's final production. If realized, this will be the smallest tangelo crop since 1962, when Florida had a damaging December freeze.