



The Outlook

February 18, 2015

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Inclement Weather

Weather patterns across the U.S. and Mexico will continue to impact production from the various regions. Out west the unseasonably warm and dry weather pattern has been the norm since the fall. After decent precipitation in December high pressure has been the dominate feature on the West Coast. The Sierra snowpack is at 25% of normal and melting in the warm temperatures. In fact the Salinas Valley reached record high temperatures most of last week. The Southwest in general has seen one of the warmest and driest winters on record. Many crops set for spring are already weeks ahead of schedule in the warm temperatures. As winter marches on and day's get longer the chance for additional snow in the mountains becomes less likely. This does not bode well for water supplies this year in California.

South of the border has seen its share of inclement weather as well beginning with the numerous Hurricanes that impacted the region in the late summer and fall disrupting planting schedules. The weather pattern this winter (unseasonably warm) has produced numerous cut-off low pressure systems that brought substantial rain to the various regions. The generally warm and humid conditions have impacted yields and quality throughout Mexico.

The Southeast has had its share of rain and cool temperatures to deal with as an Arctic air mass is forecast to bring freezing temperatures to the region late this week. This very cold air is expected to reach Southern Florida with possible freezing temperatures and strong winds. A wind chill advisory (below 35 degrees for 3+ hrs) has been issued for South Florida into the weekend. Regions to the north are likely to receive hard freeze conditions as the cold dry air moves through.

Given the forecasts and the numerous crops in the line of fire we will have to wait and see how the various regions are impacted by the latest round of weather.