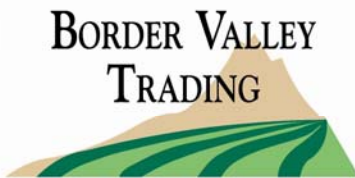


# Border Valley News

October 27, 2008



A Commitment to Safe, Quality, Feed

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## Sudan Harvest Update

Harvest of Sudan in the Imperial Valley and Central California is coming to an end.

In the Imperial Valley farmers are baling their last fields now. Quality of Sudan produced in the Imperial Valley recently has been lower grade as we are seeing mostly larger stem and medium color.



In Central and Northern California, growers are also completing Sudan harvest. Quality of recently harvested Sudan has been nice quality as we are seeing mostly fine stem and some fine to medium stem, with medium color.

## Imperial Valley Sudan Harvest Summary

The harvest of Sudan was off to a

good start the first part of June. Aided by good growing conditions throughout the Spring, quality of the early harvest Sudan was quite nice. Most Sudan made fine stem



and the color varied from standard green to medium green color.

As the harvest progressed, the quality began to show a wider range due to the high heat and stress. In July we started to see more variation in stem size, while the color remained mostly green and medium green, with isolated stacks of lower color.

In late July and August there was a prominent monsoon pattern which resulted in thunderstorms in the Imperial Valley. As a result, we saw more Sudan rained on compared to the 2007 harvest. In many cases, Sudan that received rain was not suitable for the export

market and was sold domestically. The challenging weather also lead to harvest delays as farmers tried to avoid the rain by not cutting. As a result some of the later planted Sudan showed heavy brown leaf content due to over maturity and high humidity.



The acres of Sudan in 2008 was within 95% of the planted acres in 2007, but most of the Sudan planted in 2008 was planted after wheat harvest. In 2007, most of the Sudan acres was planted in early spring. As a result, many of the later planted acres only made one cutting.

The overall production of Sudan in the Imperial Valley in 2008 is about 20% less than 2007 Sudan production. In addition to the decrease in overall production, the amount of non-exportable and off grade Sudan was higher in 2008. In 2008 we saw more standard and medium color Sudan, and less low color than 2007. Stem size produced in 2008 was similar to 2007 production.

2008 Imperial Valley Sudan Stem	Size
Fine Stem	50%
Fine to Medium Stem	27%
Medium Stem	10%
Medium to Coarse Stem	13%

### Central and Northern California Sudan Harvest Summary

The majority of Sudan this season was harvested in late August and September as most Sudan was planted after spring harvest of wheat, oat hay and rye grass hay. With a very mild summer season in the Central Valley, this also caused harvest to start a bit later compared to 2007.

Quality of Sudan harvested in Central and Northern California was very nice, and better than the overall quality in 2007. Sudan harvested this summer was almost all fine stem, with isolated cases of fine to medium stem size. Color of Sudan this season was mostly low and medium color. There was some standard color produced as well.

Almost all Sudan harvested in 2008 made one cutting. Overall production in 2008 was about 25% less than in 2007. This was due to less planted acres, especially in the Southern portion of the Central Valley due to water shortages.

2008 Imperial Valley Sudan Color	
Low Color	17%
Medium Color	44%
Standard Color	40%






2008 Central & N. California Sudan Color	
Low Color	41%
Medium Color	41%
Standard Color	19%

## PSW Harvest Progress






as of October 25, 2008	1st Cutting		2nd Cutting		3rd Cutting		4th Cutting		5th Cutting	
Imperial Valley	Cut	Baled	Cut	Baled	Cut	Baled	Cut	Baled	Cut	Baled
Alfalfa	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sudan	100%	100%	95%	90%						
Klein	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%	80%
Early Bermuda Hay	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	60%	50%
Bermuda Hay after seed	100%	100%								
Bermuda Straw	100%	100%								
<b>Central California</b>										
Southern San Joaquin Alfalfa	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Northern San Joaquin Alfalfa	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sudan	100%	99%								

## The Weather

### Imperial Valley

OCT 27	OCT 28	OCT 29	OCT 30	OCT 31
				
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny
High: 34° Low: 14°	High: 34° Low: 16°	High: 36° Low: 17°	High: 35° Low: 17°	High: 36° Low: 16°

### Modesto

OCT 27	OCT 28	OCT 29	OCT 30	OCT 31
				
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Few Showers
High: 27° Low: 9°	High: 28° Low: 11°	High: 29° Low: 12°	High: 29° Low: 12°	High: 27° Low: 12°