

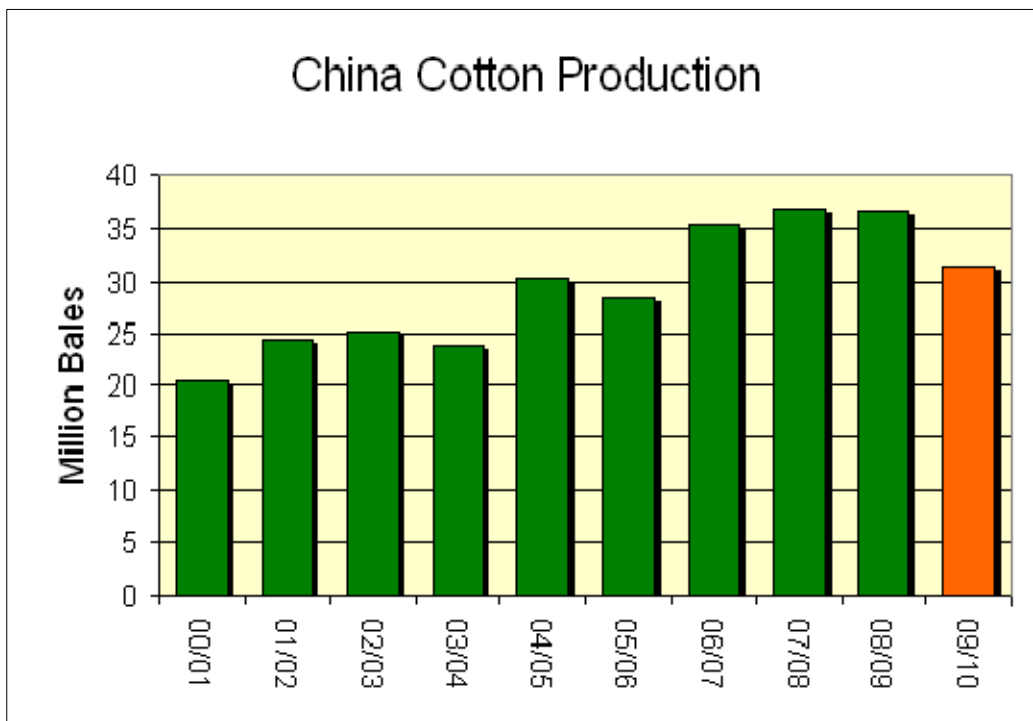


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# World Agricultural Production



## China Cotton Area and Production Revised Downward

China's 2009/10 cotton production is estimated at 31.5 million bales (6.86 million tons), down 1.0 million or 3 percent from last month and down 5.2 million or 14 percent from last year. Area for 2009/10 is estimated at 5.2 million hectares, down 5 percent from last month and down 13 percent from last year. The revision is based on the latest cotton area estimates from Chinese government sources. Farmers reduced sown area in 2009 in response to high production costs, serious labor shortages, disappointing cotton prices, higher government subsidies for grain, and the weak global demand for textiles at the end of 2008. The estimated yield of 1319 kilograms per hectare is below the record set in 2008/09 but above the 5-year average.

According to the China Cotton Association (CCA), the harvest was about 66 percent complete as of October 15. In Xinjiang, an estimated 86 percent of the crop was harvested as of November 4. Harvest progress in eastern China was slower than normal this year due to wet late-summer weather that also had a negative impact on cotton quality. The weather in October was favorably

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