

# MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

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## State of Montana Brian Schweitzer, Governor

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COMMENTS FROM  
OUR GOVERNOR



Farming and ranching have become more diverse enterprises in Montana. Although wheat and beef still account for about three-fourths of the state's agricultural receipts, crops such as peas and lentils are gaining significance and more farmers are interested in diversifying their operations.

Wind energy has become a major new source of income in rural areas. Montana had just 1 megawatt of wind power online in January 2005. By July 2010, wind capacity had risen to 386 megawatts, with more than 50 projects in permitting, construction or operation.

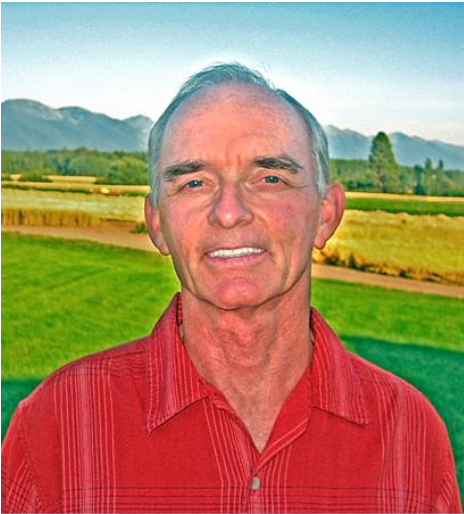
In 2009, the Montana total of agricultural cash receipts was slightly more than \$2.6 billion. While it's unclear if we can beat that record total in 2010, it is clear that agriculture is a driving force in Montana, and that agriculture and energy are two of the reasons this state has remained strong in the face of a nationwide recession.

Our producers continue to innovate to add value to their products, expanding Montana's agriculture. If you have ideas about business opportunities for Montana, use the comment form on our website, [www.governor.mt.gov](http://www.governor.mt.gov) or give my office a call at 444-3111.

Sincerely,

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

**MESSAGE FROM  
THE DIRECTOR**



This is an exciting time in Montana's agricultural development. We are moving forward to increase efficiency and production of both traditional crops and rotation crops to discourage pests and reduce the need for energy-intensive fertilizer applications. We are working to restore infrastructure to allow Montanans to provide more fresh food for our schools, institutions and customers who desire local food.

As the 2010 harvest moved toward completion, it appeared Montana will lead the nation in production of lentils and Austrian winter peas. New buyers and processors and new crop rotations have brought increased opportunities in lentils, peas and other pulse crops.

The annual Montana Agricultural Statistics bulletin is a cooperative effort between the state and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, providing county-by county data on the previous year's production of crops and livestock. The bulletin and updates are available electronically at [www.nass.usda.gov/mt](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron de Yong".

Ron de Yong, Director, Montana Department of Agriculture

**NOTES FROM  
THE DIRECTOR**



The United States Department of Agriculture has teamed with the Montana Department of Agriculture to prepare the 47th edition of basic agricultural information about Montana. The data contained in the 2010 Montana Agricultural Statistics bulletin are essential to those who market and wish to make educated decisions about Montana's agricultural bounty.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service provides timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. One of the guiding principles in accomplishing this mission is the promise of confidentiality. Referencing Title 7 of the U.S Code, NASS will not disclose individual information to the public and shall be immune from mandatory disclosure of any type, including legal process. NASS will not compromise the trust of the farmers and ranchers who provide the personal information which is summarized within this publication.

I would like to thank the farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses who take the time from busy schedules to provide survey information. I would also like to thank commodity organizations like the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, which supplies funding for several data series within this publication that would not be possible otherwise. Finally, thank you to the employees in the Montana Field Office and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture who dedicate themselves to provide service to Montana agriculture.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Anderson".

Steve Anderson, Director, USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office