



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

Issue: 07-07 Released: April 5, 2007

## HIGHLIGHTS

2007 Prospective Plantings  
March 1 Grain Stocks  
Ag Prices Received  
Quarterly Hogs and Pigs  
Weekly Crop Weather Report Starts

### 2007 Prospective Plantings

Montana spring wheat producers expect to seed 2.6 million acres in 2007, down 12 percent from last year. Producers expect to plant 380,000 acres of durum wheat this spring, down 5 percent from last year. Winter wheat seedings, at 2.2 million acres, are up 2 percent from the December estimate and 13 percent above last year. Winter wheat conditions at the end of March 2007 were better than a year ago with conditions rated 0 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. If you add the winter wheat acres seeded last fall to the intended acreage for other spring and durum wheat, all wheat planted for the 2007 season would total 5.2 million acres, down 2 percent from 2006.

Montana barley producers intend to plant an estimated 800,000 acres, up 4 percent from the previous year. The intended seeded acreage for oats is expected to be 55,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2006 and the lowest acreage planted

since 1889. Corn growers intend to plant 75,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted acreage since 1971. Acres planted to sugar beets are expected to be 47,800 acres, down 11 percent from 2006. Hay growers are intending to harvest 2.35 million acres, up 4 percent from last year.

The area planted to all dry beans is expected to be 22,000 acres, up 13 percent from last year. All garbanzo beans (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 13,000 acres, up from 8,800 acres in 2006. The small chickpea acreage is expected to be 4,000 acres, up from 2,400 acres in 2006. Large chickpea acreage is expected to be 9,000 acres, up from 6,400 acres last year. All dry peas area planted is expected to total 280,000 acres, up from 210,000 acres in 2006. Austrian winter peas area planted is expected to be 27,000 acres, down from 32,000 acres planted last year. Lentils area planted for 2007 is expected to be 95,000 acres, down from 142,000 acres planted in 2006.

Montana canola producers intend to plant 17,000 acres in 2007, up 7,000 acres from 2006. Flaxseed producers intend to plant 25,000 acres in 2007, down 10,000 acres from last year.

For the United States, the 2007 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 44.5 million acres, up 1 percent from the December Winter Wheat Seedings report. Area seeded to durum wheat is expected to total 1.99 million acres, up 6 percent from 2006. Other spring wheat growers intend to plant 13.8 million acres this year, down 7 percent from 2006. If realized, all wheat planted area is estimated at 60.3 million acres, up 5 percent from 2006.

U.S. barley growers intend to plant 3.70 million acres for 2007, up 7 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the second lowest barley planted acreage on record. Oats acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2007 crop year are expected to total 4.03 million acres, down 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest planted acreage on record. (continued on page two)

The Montana 2007 prospective plantings and grain stocks estimates in this issue are the result of surveying approximately 2,400 Montana farmers in March. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey.

### Planted Acreage, 2005-2006 and Intended 2007, Montana and United States

	Montana				United States			
	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006
	Thousand Acres			Percent	Thousand Acres			Percent
All Wheat	5,340.0	5,300.0	5,180.0	98	57,229.0	57,344.0	60,303.0	105
Winter Wheat	2,150.0	1,950.0	2,200.0	113	40,433.0	40,575.0	44,505.0	110
Durum Wheat	590.0	400.0	380.0	95	2,760.0	1,870.0	1,990.0	106
Other Spring Wheat	2,600.0	2,950.0	2,600.0	88	14,036.0	14,899.0	13,808.0	93
Barley	900.0	770.0	800.0	104	3,875.0	3,452.0	3,703.0	107
Oats	90.0	70.0	55.0	79	4,246.0	4,168.0	4,029.0	97
Corn	65.0	65.0	75.0	115	81,779.0	78,327.0	90,454.0	115
Sugar Beets	53.9	53.6	47.8	89	1,299.8	1,366.7	1,294.7	95
All Hay Harvested	3,000.0	2,260.0	2,350.0	104	61,729.0	60,807.0	63,056.0	104
All Dry Beans	18.0	19.5	22.0	113	1,630.0	1,629.8	1,504.5	92
Garbanzo Beans, sm	1.4	2.4	4.0	167	10.5	17.4	17.0	98
Garbanzo Beans, lg	4.6	6.4	9.0	141	79.3	119.4	108.5	91
All Dry Peas	135.0	210.0	280.0	133	808.0	925.5	902.0	97
Austrian Winter Peas	25.0	32.0	27.0	84	42.5	46.0	37.0	80
Lentils	150.0	142.0	95.0	67	450.0	429.0	340.0	79
Canola	17.0	10.0	17.0	170	1,159.0	1,044.0	1,168.0	112
Flaxseed	55.0	35.0	25.0	71	983.0	813.0	390.0	48

**2007 Prospective Plantings**  
(continued from page one)

U.S. corn growers intend to plant 90.5 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2007, up 15 percent from 2006 and 11 percent higher than 2005. If realized this would be the highest acreage since 1944, when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up in nearly all States as high corn prices are encouraging farmers to plant more acres to corn

Area planted to sugar beets for the 2007 crop year is expected to total 1.29 million acres, 5 percent lower than the 2006 planted acreage. Intended plantings decreased from last year in all States, except Washington, which is unchanged

Producers expect to harvest 63.1 million acres of all hay in 2007, up 4 percent from 2006. Harvested acres are expected to increase from last year throughout the Great Plains and Southeast. Due to last year's drought reduced production and low hay supplies, harvested area is expected to increase by more than 100,000 acres throughout the Great Plains and in Alabama, Missouri, and Minnesota

Dry bean growers in the U.S. intend to plant 1.50 million acres in 2007, down 8 percent from both last year and 2005. Acreage declines are expected in 12 of the 18 dry bean estimating States. Expected plantings for all chickpeas totals 125,500 acres, down 8 percent

from 2006 but 40 percent above two years ago. Small chickpea acreage is expected to be 2 percent below last year but 62 percent above 2005. Large chickpeas are expected to decline 9 percent from 2007 but increase 37 percent from two years ago

Growers intend to plant 902,000 acres of dry edible peas in 2007, down 3 percent from 2006 but 12 percent above two years ago. If realized, this would be the first decrease in dry edible pea planted acreage since 2000.

Area planted to Austrian winter peas for the 2007 crop year is expected to be 37,000 acres, down 20 percent from 2006 and 13 percent below two years ago. If realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage since the 2004 crop year. Lentils area planted for the 2007 crop year is expected to total 340,000 acres, down 21 percent from 2006 and 24 percent below two years ago. Higher prices for competing crops have contributed to the lower planting intentions for dry edible peas, Austrian peas, and lentils.

U.S. canola producers intend to plant 1.17 million acres in 2007, up 12 percent from 2006 and up less than 1 percent from 2005. Producers in North Dakota, the leading canola State, intend to plant 1.05 million acres. Producers expect to plant 390,000 acres of flaxseed in 2007, down 52 percent from last year's total of 813,000 acres. Planting intentions are down in all 4 States in the estimating

program (Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota).

**March 1, 2007 Grain Stocks**

All wheat stocks in Montana on March 1, 2007 were 69.0 million bushels, down 19 percent from March 1, 2006. All wheat stocks stored on farms amounted to 48.0 million bushels, down 20 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off farms amounted to 21.0 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the December 2006-February 2007 quarter was down 22 percent from the same quarter last year to 51.5 million bushels, compared with 66.4 million bushels a year ago.

Montana barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2007 were 22.7 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on farms was 10.5 million bushels, down 38 percent from last year. Off-farm barley storage was up 16 percent from a year ago to 12.2 million bushels. All barley disappearance during the December 2006-February 2007 quarter was down 15 percent from the same quarter a year ago to 8.7 million bushels, compared with 10.2 million bushels a year ago. Oat stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.1 million bushels, down 21 percent from last year. On-farm oat stocks were 1.0 million bushels, down 23 percent from 1.3 million bushels stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were up 20 percent from last year to 90,000 bushels. (continued on the last page)

**March 1, 2007 Grain Stocks**

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 2006	Dec. 1, 2006	Mar. 1, 2007	'07/'06	Mar. 1, 2006	Dec. 1, 2006	Mar. 1, 2007
	Thousand Bushels		Percent		Thousand Bushels		
<b>ALL WHEAT</b>							
On Farms	60,000	97,000	48,000	80%	256,000	403,250	192,450
Off Farms 1/	25,150	23,510	20,970	83%	716,215	911,408	663,320
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,150</b>	<b>120,510</b>	<b>68,970</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>972,215</b>	<b>1,314,658</b>	<b>855,770</b>
<b>DURUM WHEAT 2/</b>							
On Farms 3/	--	--	--	--	39,700	25,900	17,100
Off Farms 1/, 3/	--	--	--	--	25,795	25,438	21,636
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>65,495</b>	<b>51,338</b>	<b>38,736</b>
<b>BARLEY</b>							
On Farms	17,000	20,000	10,500	62%	68,400	83,650	38,310
Off Farms 1/	10,460	11,370	12,160	116%	98,354	89,171	78,850
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,460</b>	<b>31,370</b>	<b>22,660</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>166,754</b>	<b>172,821</b>	<b>117,160</b>
<b>OATS</b>							
On Farms	1,300	1,500	1,000	77%	42,200	53,000	33,900
Off Farms 1/	75	70	90	120%	32,673	45,889	37,127
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>74,873</b>	<b>98,889</b>	<b>71,027</b>
<b>CORN</b>							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,055,000	5,627,000	3,330,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,932,328	3,305,707	2,739,692
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6,987,328</b>	<b>8,932,707</b>	<b>6,069,692</b>

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

## February 2007 Ag Prices Received

February 2007 full month crop prices were higher when compared with January 2007. Montana's winter wheat average price was \$4.65 per bushel, up \$0.13 from the previous month; spring wheat prices increased \$0.17 to \$4.78 per bushel; durum wheat prices rose \$0.39 to \$5.12 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased \$0.13 from the previous month to \$3.07 per bushel, and malt barley prices increased \$0.01 to \$3.20 per bushel.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay rose \$10.00 to \$90.00 per ton and all other hay increased \$12.00 to \$87.00 per ton. Mid-March grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat at \$4.65 per bushel, spring wheat was \$4.92 per bushel, durum wheat was \$5.56 per bushel, malt barley was \$3.50 per bushel, and feed barley was \$3.33 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mostly higher when compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased \$0.90 to \$94.70 per cwt, cows increased \$2.90 to \$47.70. The price for calves was unchanged at \$113.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped \$5.20 to \$30.30 per cwt, but lamb prices increased \$2.00 to \$99.60 per cwt. Milk prices increased \$0.40 per cwt from last month to \$14.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March were \$100.00 per cwt, cows were \$48.90 per cwt, calves were \$121.00 per cwt, and milk prices were \$15.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was \$4.67 per bushel, up \$0.14; spring wheat was \$4.73 per bushel, up \$0.21; durum wheat was \$5.16 per bushel, up \$0.46; the all barley price was \$3.10 per bushel, up \$0.07; steer and heifer prices were \$91.50 per cwt, up \$1.70; cows were \$47.00 per

cwt, up \$2.60; calves were \$117.00 per cwt, up \$2.00; sheep were \$36.50 per cwt, down \$0.60; and lambs were \$95.40 per cwt, down \$1.10.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was \$4.66 per bushel, spring wheat was \$4.78 per bushel, durum wheat was \$5.33 per bushel, all wheat was \$4.75 per bushel, malt barley was \$3.29 per bushel, feed barley was \$3.21 per bushel, and all barley was \$3.27. Steer and heifer prices were \$97.20 per cwt, cows were \$46.90 per cwt, calves were \$123.00 per cwt, all hogs were \$45.40 per cwt, and all eggs were \$0.77 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points (18 percent) from March 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 134, increased 6 points (4.7 percent) from last month and increased 19 points (17 percent) from March 2006.

## United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2007
Prices Received	113	113	128	133
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	147	147	153	155
Ratio 2/	77	77	84	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Feb 2007	Jan 2007	Feb 2006	Mar 15, 2007	Mar 15, 2007
Dollars									
Winter Wheat	Bu	3.56	4.52	4.65	4.67	+0.13	+1.09	4.65	4.66
Durum Wheat	Bu	3.25	4.73	5.12	5.16	+0.39	+1.87	5.56	5.33
Spring Wheat	Bu	3.79	4.61	4.78	4.73	+0.17	+0.99	4.92	4.78
All Wheat	Bu	3.62	4.58	4.74	4.71	+0.16	+1.12	4.83	4.75
Barley, All	Bu	2.76	3.15	3.18	3.10	+0.03	+0.42	3.47	3.27
Feed Barley	Bu	1.73	2.94	3.07	3.17	+0.13	+1.34	3.33	3.21
Malt Barley	Bu	2.90	3.19	3.20	3.08	+0.01	+0.30	3.50	3.29
Oats	Bu	1.62	2.84	na	2.34	na	na	na	2.24
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	79.00	80.00	117.00	+1.00	+14.00	90.00	120.00
All Other Hay	Ton	68.00	74.00	75.00	105.00	+1.00	+7.00	87.00	108.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	79.00	79.00	114.00	nc	+13.00	90.00	117.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	118.00	93.80	94.70	91.50	+0.90	-23.30	100.00	97.20
Cows	Cwt	52.60	44.80	47.70	47.00	+2.90	-4.90	48.90	46.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	102.00	85.50	83.90	86.60	-1.60	-18.10	91.80	91.40
Calves	Cwt	150.00	113.00	113.00	117.00	nc	-37.00	121.00	123.00
Sheep	Cwt	38.10	35.50	30.30	36.50	-5.20	-7.80	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	104.00	97.60	99.60	95.40	+2.00	-4.40	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	14.10	14.40	14.80	14.90	+0.40	+0.70	15.30	14.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available. nc-no change

**March 1 Grain Stocks** (continued from page two)

For the U.S., all wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2007 totaled 856 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 192 million bushels, down 25 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 663 million bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The December 2006 - February 2007 indicated disappearance is 459 million bushels, up slightly from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2007 totaled 38.7 million bushels, down 41 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 17.1 million bushels, are down 57 percent from March 1, 2006. Off-farm stocks totaled 21.6 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. The December 2006 - February 2007 indicated disappearance of 12.6 million bushels is down 24 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2007 totaled 117 million bushels, down 30 percent from March 1, 2006. On-farm stocks are estimated at 38.3 million bushels, 44 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 78.9 million bushels, are 20 percent below March 2006. The December 2006 - February 2007 indicated disappearance totaled 55.7 million bushels, 35 percent above the same period a year earlier.

U.S. oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2007 totaled 71.0 million bushels, 5 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2006. Of the total stocks on hand, 33.9 million bushels are stored on farms, down 20 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 37.1 million bushels, up 14 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2006 - February 2007 totaled 27.9 million bushels, up 34 percent from the same period a year ago.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2007 totaled 6.07 billion

bushels, down 13 percent from March 1, 2006. Of the total stocks, 3.33 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 18 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.74 billion bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The December 2006 - February 2007 indicated disappearance is 2.86 billion bushels, compared with 2.83 billion bushels during the same period last year.

**U.S. Hog Inventory Up 1 Percent**

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2007 was 61.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2006, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2006.

Breeding inventory, at 6.08 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2006-February 2007 pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 2 percent from 2006 and up 3 percent from 2005. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, up 1 percent from both 2006 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.08 for the December 2006-February 2007 period, compared to 9.03 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.20 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the March-May 2007 quarter, down slightly from the actual farrowings, but up 1 percent from 2005. Intended farrowings for June-August 2007, at 2.92 million sows, are virtually unchanged from both 2006 and 2005.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees,

accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

**Weekly Crop-Weather Reports Begin**

The 2007 growing season is approaching, and we will begin releasing the weekly Crop-Weather Report. This report is one of the most useful reports for producers, agribusinesses, and market analysts. The report provides up-to-date information on crop progress and conditions, soil moisture and range and pasture feed conditions, as well as weather information.

Weekly publications will resume on April 2, 2007, and will continue through October 29 when the last weekly report will be released. The first monthly report will be issued December 3, and the monthly reports will continue through March 2008.

A couple of options are available for accessing our Crop-Weather Report. Reports are available each release date after 2:30 p.m. on our website <http://nass.usda.gov/mt>. Under the heading Montana Publications, select Crop Progress and Condition under the drop-down menu, and hit Go. Here you will be able to select which report you are interested in by the week ending date. Our reports are also available by email. Our website contains a page for subscribing to our releases so that they are automatically emailed to you. The instructions for subscribing to our releases are as follows:

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**COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER**

Montana's Rank	Specialty Crops County
Potato Stocks	Estimates
Milk Production	Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production

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