



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Specialty Crops County Estimates  
Potato Stocks  
Montana's Rank  
Red Meat Production  
Cattle on Feed  
Egg Production  
Milk Production  
Price Reactions After USDA Reports

### 2007 Selected Specialty Crops County Estimates

The USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office released county estimates for selected 2007 pulse crops and oilseeds. This is the ninth year of the data series, but the first year camelina estimates were set. County-level data are not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture. Estimates for dry beans, safflower, flaxseed, and mustard seed will be released at a later date.

Sheridan was the number one lentil-producing county in 2007, with 595,000 cwt, Daniels was second with 59,000 cwt, and Valley county was third with 50,000 cwt. Growers from the Northeast District produced 95 percent of the state's lentil crop. Total lentil production for 2007 was 842,000 cwt. Sheridan county was the largest dry edible pea producer in 2007 with 934,000 cwt, followed by Daniels county with 795,000 cwt, and Roosevelt county with 595,000 cwt. Northeast district farmers produced 3.2 million cwt or 86 percent of the state's total dry pea production of 3.7 million cwt. Austrian winter pea production during 2007 was 26,000 cwt. The North Central district produced 63 percent, or 16,300 cwt, of the state's total, followed by the Central district with 15 percent, or 3,900 cwt.

Pondera was the largest canola-producing county in 2007 with 3.4 million pounds, or 34 percent of the state's total, followed by Toole county with 1.9 million pounds. The North

Central district produced 69 percent of the 10.1 million pounds of canola produced in 2007. Montana's sunflower production totaled 3.0 million pounds in 2007. The Northeast district accounted for 2.3 million pounds or 78 percent of the total production. Montana produced 12,197,000 pounds of camelina in 2007. Valley county was the top producer with 3,077,000 pounds, followed by Chouteau with 1,488,000 pounds, and Pondera with 1,257,000 pounds. The Northeast district produced 40 percent of the state's total, while the North Central district produced 36 percent of the total.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted and harvested acres by county, district, and state are now available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at [www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/). We compile the only annual county estimates for Montana based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers conducted in the fall of 2007. Thanks to those who participated!

### April 1, 2008 Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 1.9 million cwt in storage on April 1, 2008, down 17 percent from the previous year. This number represents 51 percent of the 2007 Montana potato crop.

The 13 major potato States held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2008, up 8 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above April 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.15 million cwt on April 1, 2008, down 18 percent from last year. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 was at 270 million cwt, 1 percent above last year and up 4 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt, was down 3 percent

from the same period in 2007 but up 7 percent from 2006.

Processors have used 144 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from last year's season-to-date usage but up 9 percent from 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago and Maine's total processing was 5 percent below 2007. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was 3 percent higher than last season. Dehydrating usage accounted for 29.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same period in 2006.

Western States held 99.2 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 14 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above 2006. Idaho's potato stocks were up 10 percent from last year; Washington's potato stocks were 40 percent above last year; and Oregon's stocks increased 14 percent from April 1, 2007. California's potato stocks decreased 25 percent from 2007, while Colorado's and Montana's stocks were both down 17 percent from a year ago.

Central States accounted for 24.4 million cwt of all potato stocks on April 1, down 5 percent from a year ago but 20 percent above the same date in 2006. Wisconsin's potato stocks were down 5 percent from last year; North Dakota's stocks were 24 percent below 2007; and potato stocks in Nebraska were down 13 percent from the previous season. Minnesota's stocks increased 5 percent from the same date in 2007 and Michigan's potato stocks were 61 percent higher than a year ago.

Eastern States stored 6.50 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, down 21 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent below April 1, 2006. Maine's potato stocks were 19 percent lower than last year and New York's potato stocks decreased 40 percent from a year ago.

**Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture**

Item	Total	Unit	Period Or Date	Rank	% U.S. Total
Number of farms and ranches	28,300	farms/ranches	2007	30	1.4
Land in farms and ranches	60,000,000	acres	2007	2	6.4
Average Farm Size	2,120	acres	2007	4	N/A
<b>Income From Cash Receipts, Excluding Government Payments</b>					
Total	2,349,159	thousand dollars	2006	33	1.0
Crops	1,069,977	thousand dollars	2006	30	0.9
Livestock	1,279,182	thousand dollars	2006	30	1.1
<b>Livestock Inventory</b>					
All Cattle and Calves	2,600,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	11	2.7
All Cows	1,540,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	8	3.7
Beef Cows	1,523,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	6	4.7
Milk Cows	17,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	40	0.2
Cattle on Feed	40,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	24	0.3
All Sheep and Lambs	290,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	6	4.8
Breeding Sheep	265,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	5	5.9
Meat Goats	11,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	34	0.4
Milk Goats	2,000	head	Jan. 1, 2008	35	0.7
Hogs and Pigs	180,000	head	Dec. 1, 2007	25	0.3
Chickens	485,000	head	Dec. 1, 2007	37	0.1
<b>Livestock Production</b>					
Calf Crop	1,600,000	head	2007	7	4.3
Lamb Crop	270,000	head	2007	4	6.7
Pig Crop	337,000	head	2007	27	0.3
Wool Production	2,350,000	pounds	2007	5	6.8
Egg Production	107,000,000	eggs	2007	37	0.1
Honey Production	9,180,000	pounds	2007	5	6.2
<b>Crop Production</b>					
All Wheat	149,820,000	bushels	2007	3	7.2
Winter Wheat	83,220,000	bushels	2007	8	5.5
Durum Wheat	11,400,000	bushels	2007	2	15.9
Other Spring Wheat	55,200,000	bushels	2007	3	11.5
Barley	31,680,000	bushels	2007	3	15.0
Oats	1,820,000	bushels	2007	14	2.0
All Hay	5,145,000	tons	2007	11	3.4
Alfalfa Hay	3,795,000	tons	2007	7	5.2
Other Hay	1,350,000	tons	2007	19	1.7
Dry Beans	278,000	cwt	2007	10	1.1
Pinto Beans	192,000	cwt	2007	8	1.7
Garbanzo Beans	86,000	cwt	2007	5	5.7
Lentils	842,000	cwt	2007	2	24.7
Dry Edible Peas	3,689,000	cwt	2007	2	23.2
Austrian Winter Peas	26,000	cwt	2007	3	20.5
Fall Potatoes	3,696,000	cwt	2007	13	0.9
Sugar Beets	1,161,000	tons	2007	6	3.6
Flaxseed	180,000	bushels	2007	2	3.0
Safflower	30,295,000	pounds	2007	2	14.5
Canola	10,087,000	pounds	2007	3	0.7
Corn for Grain	5,510,000	bushels	2007	37	1/
Corn for Silage	1,012,000	tons	2007	23	1.0

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

## **March 2008 Red Meat Production**

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2008, down 9 percent from February 2008 and 9 percent below March 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,187 pounds, decreased 18 pounds from last year.

During March there were 900 hogs slaughtered, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, decreased 17 pounds from last year. March sheep slaughter totaled 300 head, unchanged from March 2007. The average live weight decreased 9 pounds to 102 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.09 billion pounds in March, up 2 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in March 2007.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, down 2 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 17 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up slightly from March 2007. The average live weight was down 48 pounds from last year, at 273 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.96 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.66 million head, up 5 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.0 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 17 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

January to March 2008 commercial red meat production was 12.5 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 12 percent from

last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

## **U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly**

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on April 1, 2008. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2007 but 1 percent below April 1, 2006. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.35 million steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.28 million head, up 3 percent from 2007.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.74 million, 11 percent below 2007 and 5 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.67 million head. This is the second lowest placements for the month of March since the series began in 1996. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 335,000, 600-699 pounds were 330,000, 700-799 pounds were 561,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 510,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.84 million, slightly below 2007 and 6 percent below 2006. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during March, 12 percent below 2007 and 30 percent below 2006.

## **March U.S. Egg Production Down 2 Percent**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.68 billion during March 2008, down 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.53 billion table eggs, and 1.15 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.08 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2008 averaged 342 million, down 2 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,244 eggs, up slightly from March 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2008 totaled 342 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 342 million layers consisted of 282 million layers

producing table or market type eggs, 57.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2008, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from April 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2008 totaled 39.5 million, up 3 percent from March 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 37.6 million on April 1, 2008, down 2 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 245 thousand during March 2008, down 22 percent from March 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2008 totaled 833 million, up 3 percent from March 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 674 million on April 1, 2008, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.09 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2008, down 1 percent from March 2007.

## **March U.S. Milk Production up 2.4 Percent**

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 15.1 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from March 2007. February revised production at 13.9 billion pounds, was up 6.2 percent from February 2007. The February revision represented an increase of 23 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,795 pounds for March, 12 pounds above March 2007.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.44 million head, 141,000 head more than March 2007, and 9,000 head more than February 2008.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 47.6 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.25 million head, 112,000 head more than the same period last year.

## Reaction to USDA Reports on Wheat Prices

National Agricultural Statistics Service staff are often asked why prices always go down following the release of USDA crop and livestock reports. Most news accounts would lead you to believe that prices always "take a tumble," following the release of these reports. The fact is that prices go up about as often as they go down, and by about the same amount. We usually don't hear when prices go up following official reports, but we have the facts showing they do.

When you analyze the wheat prices table below, during the period 1998 through 2007, wheat prices increased 25 times one day after the monthly Crop Production Reports, had no change 4 times, and decreased 21 times. The average increase was 6.2 cents and the average decrease was 5.1 cents. Wheat prices increased 26 times one week after the monthly Crop Production Reports, had no change 1 time, and decreased 23 times. The average increase was 13.4 cents and the average decrease was 12.5 cents. Similar findings occurred for corn and soybeans.

USDA reports do not determine the price. The actual supply that enters the marketplace along with domestic and export demand determine the price farmers receive for their products. It is true that the futures market and, in turn, the current cash market may go up or down following our reports. But these fluctuations are generally minor as the market has already made adjustments to expected supplies. One reason why farmers and others may believe that USDA reports drive down prices is because the media rarely emphasize price increases following the reports.

### Wheat Prices

Changes Following Crop Production Reports			
Report Date	Day Prior to Report	Day After Report	Week After Report
	Dollars per Bushel		
May 1998	3.21	3.23	3.25
June	2.98	3.00	3.06
July	2.95	2.93	2.88
August	2.72	2.68	2.66
Ann Report	2.88	2.83	2.94
May 1999	2.76	2.84	2.78
June	2.85	2.79	2.69
July	2.40	2.39	2.38
August	2.65	2.57	2.67
Ann Report	2.81	2.71	2.62
May 2000	2.78	2.80	2.69
June	2.74	2.76	2.73
July	2.94	2.93	2.79
August	2.64	2.65	2.72
Ann Report	3.18	3.27	3.27
May 2001	3.34	3.42	3.50
June	3.27	3.29	3.24
July	3.01	3.03	3.16
August	3.03	3.03	3.03
Ann Report	3.12	3.10	3.04
May 2002	3.10	3.08	3.11
June	3.40	3.48	3.54
July	3.83	3.83	3.93
August	4.15	4.23	4.22
Ann Report	5.08	5.12	5.05

### Wheat Prices

Changes Following Crop Production Reports			
Report Date	Day Prior to Report	Day After Report	Week After Report
	Dollars per Bushel		
May 2003	3.81	3.91	3.95
June	3.89	3.84	3.36
July	2.99	3.02	3.16
August	3.62	3.70	3.97
Ann Report	3.66	3.70	3.57
May 2004	4.14	4.08	4.03
June	4.01	3.94	3.92
July	3.84	3.89	3.95
August	3.53	3.47	3.48
Ann Report	3.90	3.79	3.73
May 2005	3.57	3.54	3.60
June	3.62	3.62	3.71
July	3.73	3.71	3.88
August	3.81	3.84	3.90
Ann Report	4.38	4.48	4.50
May 2006	4.96	5.05	5.30
June	5.08	5.03	4.88
July	5.42	5.34	5.05
August	4.85	4.76	4.72
Ann Report	5.21	5.21	5.30
May 2007	5.37	5.42	5.44
June	5.80	6.10	6.51
July	6.07	6.11	6.01
August	6.55	6.50	6.48
Ann Report	9.00	9.07	8.88

### COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Milk PDI	Winter Wheat Production
Meat Animals PDI	
Poultry PDI	
Ag Prices Received	
Hay Stocks	

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