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National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
10 W 15th Street, Suite 3100 · Helena, MT 59626

August 1, 2008 Crop Production

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Montana's **all wheat** production is unchanged from last month's forecast, however winter wheat production is up from the previous month and spring wheat production is lower, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest 159.7 million bushels of all wheat, up from the 149.8 million bushels harvested last year. The area for harvest is expected to be 5.5 million acres, unchanged from last month, but 9 percent above last year. These are the last small grain forecasts until the final small grains summary is published on September 30, 2008.

Winter wheat yield is expected to be 39.0 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from July and up 1 bushel per acre from last year. Production is forecast to be up 4.9 million bushels from July to 95.6 million bushels compared with 83.2 million bushels last year. Acreage expected to be harvested is unchanged from the July forecast, but is up 260,000 acres from last year to 2,450,000 acres. For the week ending August 10, winter wheat was 45 percent harvested compared with 89 percent last year and the five-year average of 78 percent.

Spring wheat production in Montana is forecast to be 51.5 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year's production. The expected yield of 21.0 bushels per acre is down 2 bushels from last month and last year. Dry and hot conditions during July affected expected yields. Acres for harvest are unchanged from July at 2,450,000, but up 50,000 from last year. Harvest is underway with 11 percent complete compared with 41 percent last year and 28 percent for the five-year average. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 12.7 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year, but unchanged from July. The expected yield of 21.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last month, but 3 bushels lower than 2007. Harvested acres are up 27 percent from 2007 to 605,000 acres.

Barley yields are expected to average 47.0 bushels per acre in 2008, 3 bushels above last year, and 4 bushels per acre above July. Barley production is forecast to be 36.7 million bushels compared with 31.7 million bushels produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 780,000 acres, up 60,000 from 2007. Harvest was 13 percent complete for the week ending August 10, compared with 54 percent last year and 31 percent for the five-year average.

Oat producers expect to harvest 1.7 million bushels for grain, 8 percent lower than last year. The 2008 area for harvest is expected to be 35,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. The expected yield of 48.0 bushels per acre is 4 bushels lower than last year's yield and down 5 bushels from July. Harvest was 27 percent complete for the week ending August 10, compared with 54 percent last year and 35 percent for the five-year average.

Sugar beet production is forecast to be 745,000 tons, down 36 percent from last year. The expected yield, at 24.6 tons per acre, is down slightly from the 24.7 tons per acre last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 30,300 acres, down 16,700 acres from last year. **Dry edible bean** producers expect to harvest 13,000 acres this year, down 22 percent from last year's figure and down 1,500 acres from June. Yield is estimated at 1,900 pounds per acre, 230 pounds per acre higher than the previous year. All dry bean production is expected to be 247,000 cwt, down 31,000 cwt from last year's figure. Producers planted 9,000 acres of pinto beans, up 500 acres from 2007. Garbanzo bean producers planted 6,000 acres, down from 9,800 last year.

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Alfalfa hay in Montana is expected to yield 2.0 tons per acre in 2008, down 0.3 ton per acre from the previous year. Growers plan to harvest 1.65 million acres, unchanged from last year. Production is expected to reach 3.3 million tons, a 13 percent decrease from the 2007 production figure. The average yield for **other hay** is forecast to be 1.4 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton per acre from last year. Production of other hay is forecast at 1.4 million tons, up 4 percent from 2007 due to increased harvested acreage.

For the **United States, winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.87 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 24 percent from 2007. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 46.6 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and 4.4 bushels above last year. Expected grain area totals 40.3 million acres, up 12 percent from last year but unchanged from last month. Harvest in the 18 major producing States was 86 percent complete by August 3. This was 7 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average.

U.S. **other spring wheat** production is forecast at 501 million bushels, down 1 percent from July but up 5 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 36.4 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushel from last month and 0.6 bushel below last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 13.8 million acres, up 6 percent from last year. **Durum wheat** production in the United States is forecast at 86.6 million bushels, down 4 percent from the previous month but 21 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 33.5 bushels per acre, 1.3 bushels less than last month and 0.4 bushel below last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 2.58 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 22 percent from last year.

Barley production in the U.S. for 2008 is forecast at 218 million bushels, virtually unchanged from last month and 3 percent above 2007. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the U.S. is forecast at 59.9 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from July but down 0.5 bushel from last year. Expected area to be harvested as grain or seed, at 3.64 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2007.

Oats production is forecast at 89.9 million bushels, 3 percent below the July 1 forecast and 2 percent below last year's record low 91.6 million bushels. Based on conditions as of August 1, the yield is forecast at 62.3 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from last month's forecast but up 1.4 bushels from 2007. Compared with July 1, yields are forecast to be unchanged or lower in 13 of the major producing States. Expected area to be harvested as grain or seed is 1.44 million acres, down 4 percent from last year.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 24.2 million cwt for 2008, down 5 percent from last year and down slightly from 2006. Planted and harvested area increased from the June Acreage report. Planted area is forecast at 1.40 million acres, a slight increase from the previous forecast but down 8 percent from 2007. Harvested area is forecast at 1.35 million acres, 1 percent above the last forecast but 8 percent below the previous year's harvested acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,786 pounds per acre, an increase of 70 pounds from 2007 and 209 pounds above the 2006 yield. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record for the U.S.

U.S. production of **sugar beets** in 2008 is forecast at 25.3 million tons, down 21 percent from last year and 26 percent below 2006. Production forecasts are down from last year in all estimating States. Growers expect to harvest 1.05 million acres in 2008, up 2 percent from the June forecast but 16 percent lower than last year. The yield forecast, at 24.1 tons per acre, is down 1.5 tons from 2007.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production is forecast at 70.9 million tons, down 2 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.41 tons per acre, slightly higher than the 3.35 tons from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 20.8 million acres, unchanged from June but 4 percent below the previous year's acreage.

Other hay production is forecast at 77.0 million tons, down 1 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.94 tons, down slightly from last year. Harvested area, at 39.7 million acres, is unchanged from June but down 1 percent from the previous year.

Crop contacts: Thomas Chard for oats and winter wheat; Christel Pachl for spring wheat, durum wheat, hay, and sugar beets; Lindsey Houska for barley and dry beans.

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August 1, 2008 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	2,240.0	2,600.0	2,190.0	2,450.0	38.0	39.0	83,220	95,550
Durum Wheat	Bu	480.0	610.0	475.0	605.0	24.0	21.0	11,400	12,705
Spring Wheat	Bu	2,450.0	2,500.0	2,400.0	2,450.0	23.0	21.0	55,200	51,450
All Wheat	Bu	5,170.0	5,710.0	5,065.0	5,505.0	29.6	29.0	149,820	159,705
Barley	Bu	900.0	910.0	720.0	780.0	44.0	47.0	31,680	36,660
Oats	Bu	75.0	65.0	35.0	35.0	52.0	48.0	1,820	1,680
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	84.0	65.0	38.0	22.0	145.0	5/	5,510	5/
Sugar Beets	Tons	47.5	31.6	47.0	30.3	24.7	24.6	1,161	745
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	11.3	10.9	11.2	10.8	330.0	4/	3,696	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt	18.3	15.0	16.6	13.0	16.7	19.0	278	247
Dry Peas	Cwt	235.0	232.0	217.0	214.0	17.0	4/	3,689	4/
Lentils	Cwt	87.0	84.0	85.0	82.0	9.9	4/	842	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	20.0	19.0	4.0	4.0	6.5	4/	26	4/
Canola	Lbs	8.0	10.0	7.7	9.5	1,310.0	3/	10,087	3/
Flaxseed	Bu	21.0	10.0	20.0	9.0	9.0	5/	180	5/
Safflower	Lbs	38.0	32.0	36.5	30.5	830.0	5/	30,295	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650.0	1,650.0	2.3	2.0	3,795	3,300
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900.0	1,000.0	1.5	1.4	1,350	1,400
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,550.0	2,650.0	2.0	1.8	5,145	4,700
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	44,987.0	46,605.0	35,952.0	40,252.0	42.2	46.6	1,515,989	1,874,857
Durum Wheat	Bu	2,149.0	2,655.0	2,112.0	2,583.0	33.9	33.5	71,686	86,573
Spring Wheat	Bu	13,297.0	14,197.0	12,947.0	13,751.0	37.0	36.4	479,047	500,988
All Wheat	Bu	60,433.0	63,457.0	51,011.0	56,586.0	40.5	43.5	2,066,722	2,462,418
Barley	Bu	4,020.0	4,130.0	3,508.0	3,640.0	60.4	59.9	211,825	217,976
Oats	Bu	3,760.0	3,467.0	1,505.0	1,443.0	60.9	62.3	91,599	89,897
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	93,600.0	86,977.0	86,542.0	79,290.0	151.1	155.0	13,073,893	12,287,875
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,268.8	1,092.1	1,246.8	1,051.8	25.6	24.1	31,912	25,319
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	1,010.6	929.1	996.7	916.2	410.0	4/	409,082	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,526.9	1,401.9	1,478.7	1,353.6	17.2	17.9	25,371	24,172
Dry Peas	Cwt	847.5	847.0	811.3	807.8	19.6	4/	15,903	4/
Lentils	Cwt	303.0	279.0	295.0	272.0	11.6	4/	3,408	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	29.0	26.5	11.0	8.8	11.6	4/	127	4/
Canola	Lbs	1,183.0	1,008.0	1,163.0	979.0	1,250.0	3/	1,453,830	3/
Flaxseed	Bu	354.0	340.0	349.0	333.0	16.9	5/	5,904	5/
Safflower	Lbs	180.0	191.0	172.0	183.0	1,215.0	5/	208,995	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,670.0	20,778.0	3.35	3.41	72,575	70,944
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,955.0	39,661.0	1.95	1.94	77,729	77,011
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,625.0	60,439.0	2.44	2.45	150,304	147,955

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available October 10, 2008. 4/ Forecast available November 10, 2008. 5/ Estimate available January 12, 2009. -- Not published.