



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

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

2008 Prospective Plantings

For immediate release: March 31, 2008

For more information contact: Peggy Stringer or John Hilton at 1-800-835-2612

Montana **spring wheat** producers expect to seed 2.45 million acres in 2008, unchanged from last year, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Producers expect to plant 630,000 acres of **durum wheat** this spring, up 31 percent from last year. **Winter wheat** seedings, at 2.7 million acres, are unchanged from the December estimate and 21 percent above last year. Winter wheat conditions at the end of February 2008 were lower than a year ago with conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 3 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 2008 crop year would total 5.8 million acres, up 12 percent from 2007.

Montana **barley** producers intend to plant an estimated 860,000 acres, down 4 percent from the previous year. The intended seeded acreage for **oats** is expected to be 55,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2007 and the lowest acreage planted on record. **Corn** growers intend to plant 78,000 acres, down 6,000 acres from last year. Acres planted to **sugar beets** are expected to be 35,800 acres, down 25 percent from 2007. **Hay** growers are intending to harvest 2.6 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

The area planted to **all dry beans** is expected to be 13,000 acres, down 29 percent from last year. All **garbanzo beans** (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 5,000 acres, down from 9,800 acres in 2007. Small chickpea acreage is expected to be 2,400 acres, up from 1,600 acres in 2007. Large chickpea acreage is expected to be 2,600 acres, down from 8,200 acres last year. **All dry pea** area planted is expected to total 220,000 acres, down from 235,000 acres in 2007. **Austrian winter pea** area planted is expected to be 19,000 acres, down from 20,000 acres planted last year. **Lentil** area planted for 2008 is expected to be 87,000 acres, unchanged from 2007.

Montana **canola** producers intend to plant 4,000 acres in 2008, down 50 percent from 2007. **Flaxseed** producers intend to plant 14,000 acres in 2008, down 7,000 acres from last year.

In the United States, **other spring wheat** growers intend to plant 14.3 million acres this year, up 8 percent from 2007. Of the total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Area seeded to **durum wheat** is expected to total 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from 2007. Planted acreage is expected to be up in all producing States except Idaho where acreage is unchanged. The 2008 **winter wheat** planted area is estimated at 46.8 million acres, up slightly from the Winter Wheat Seedings report.

Barley growers in the United States intend to plant 4.15 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest barley planted acreage on record. **Oat** growers intend to plant an estimated 3.42 million acres, down 9 percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record.

U.S. **corn** growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. U.S. area planted to **sugar beets** for the 2008 crop year is expected to total 1.13 million acres, 11 percent lower than the 2007 planted acreage. If realized, expected planted acreage will be the lowest since 1985.

-more-

Dry bean growers intend to plant 1.40 million acres in 2008, down 8 percent from last year and 14 percent below 2006. Expected area planted for all chickpeas is 98,500 acres, down 22 percent from last year and 28 percent lower than 2006. Small chickpea area, at 15,400 acres, is 39 percent higher than 2007 but 11 percent lower than 2006. Acreage declines are expected in 12 of the 18 dry bean estimating States.

Dry edible pea growers in the United States intend to plant 820,000 acres in 2008, down 3 percent from 2007 and 11 percent below two years ago. Area planted to **Austrian winter peas** for the 2008 crop year is expected to be 25,500 acres, down 12 percent from 2007 and 45 percent below two years ago. If realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage since the 2003 crop year. **Lentils** area planted for the 2008 crop year is expected to total 277,000 acres, down 9 percent from 2007 and 35 percent below two years ago.

Flaxseed producers in the U.S. expect to plant 360,000 acres in 2008, up 2 percent from last year but 56 percent below 2006.

U.S. producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of **all hay** in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the Great Plains, Southeast, and Southwest.

Crop Contacts: Christel Pachl for spring wheat, durum wheat, sugar beets, hay; Eric Siebens for winter wheat, flaxseed, canola; Lindsey Houska for barley, corn, dry beans, dry peas, lentils; Thomas Chard for oats.

Planted Acreage, 2006-2007 and Intended 2008, Montana and United States

	Montana				United States			
	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007	2006	2007	2008	2008/2007
	Thousand Acres			Percent	Thousand Acres			Percent
All Wheat	5,300.0	5,170.0	5,780.0	112	57,344.0	60,433.0	63,803.0	106
Winter Wheat	1,950.0	2,240.0	2,700.0	121	40,575.0	44,987.0	46,840.0	104
Durum Wheat	400.0	480.0	630.0	131	1,870.0	2,149.0	2,630.0	122
Other Spring Wheat	2,950.0	2,450.0	2,450.0	100	14,899.0	13,297.0	14,333.0	108
Barley	770.0	900.0	860.0	96	3,452.0	4,020.0	4,147.0	103
Oats	70.0	75.0	55.0	73	4,168.0	3,760.0	3,420.0	91
Corn	65.0	84.0	78.0	93	78,327.0	93,600.0	86,014.0	92
Sugar Beets	53.6	47.5	35.8	75	1,366.2	1,269.8	1,131.8	89
All Hay Harvested	2,260.0	2,550.0	2,600.0	102	60,927.0	61,625.0	60,583.0	98
All Dry Beans	19.5	18.3	13.0	71	1,629.8	1,526.9	1,398.5	92
Garbanzo Beans, sm	2.4	1.6	2.4	150	17.4	11.1	15.4	139
Garbanzo Beans, lg	6.4	8.2	2.6	32	119.4	114.4	83.1	73
All Dry Peas	210.0	235.0	220.0	94	925.5	847.5	820.0	97
Austrian Winter Peas	32.0	20.0	19.0	95	46.0	29.0	25.5	88
Lentils	142.0	87.0	87.0	100	429.0	303.0	277.0	91
Canola	10.0	8.0	4.0	50	1,044.0	1,183.0	1,010.0	85
Flaxseed	35.0	21.0	14.0	67	813.0	354.0	360.0	102

#end#