

# MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

## Judy Martz, Governor of Montana

*Issued Cooperatively by*



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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**FOREWARD**

Comments from the Governor .....3  
 Message from the Director .....4  
 Notes from the State Statistician .....4

**GENERAL**

Montana Department of Agriculture .....5  
 Montana Crop, Livestock, and Weather Digest .....6  
 Climatological Data .....7  
 Montana Facts and Figures .....8  
 Number of Farms and Land in Farms .....9  
 Census of Agriculture, Number of Farms, Montana .....10  
 Census of Agriculture, Number of Farms by County .....11

**ECONOMIC**

Industry Comparison to Agriculture .....12  
 Value Added to the US Economy by the Agriculture Sector .....13  
 Farm Real Estate Values .....14  
 Cash Receipts from Sale of Principal Products  
 and Government Payments .....14  
 Cash Receipts by County .....15  
 Cash Receipts by Commodities .....16  
 Cash Receipt Charts from Marketing of Commodities .....17  
 Prices Received for Selected Commodities .....18  
 Average Prices and Marketings of Major Commodities .....20

**RANK**

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture .....21  
 Record Highs and Lows for Montana Commodities .....22  
 Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat Production Maps .....24  
 Durum Wheat and Barley Production Maps .....25  
 Oats and Alfalfa Hay Production Maps .....26  
 Cattle & Calves; Sheep & Lamb Inventory Maps .....27

**STATE ESTIMATES – CROPS**

ACREAGE, PRODUCTION & VALUE

All Wheat .....28  
 Winter Wheat .....29  
 Other Spring Wheat .....30  
 Durum Wheat .....31  
 Barley .....32  
 Oats .....33  
 Potatoes .....33  
 Canola .....34  
 Safflower .....34  
 Sunflower .....34  
 Mustard Seed .....34  
 Flaxseed .....34  
 All Dry Beans .....35  
 Garbanzo Beans .....35  
 Pinto Beans .....35  
 Lentils .....35  
 All Dry and Austrian Winter Peas .....35  
 Sweet Cherries .....36  
 Sugar Beets .....36  
 Alfalfa Seed .....36  
 All Hay .....37  
 Alfalfa Hay .....37  
 All Other Hay .....37  
 Stocks of Major Grains .....38  
 Grain Movement .....39  
 Wheat Utilization .....40  
 All Wheat Varieties .....41  
 Winter Wheat Varieties .....42  
 Spring Wheat Varieties .....43  
 Durum Wheat Varieties .....44  
 Barley Varieties .....45

**COUNTY ESTIMATES – CROPS**

PLANTED, HARVESTED, PRODUCTION & RANKING BY COUNTY

All Wheat .....46  
 Winter Wheat .....50  
 Other Spring Wheat .....54  
 Durum Wheat .....58  
 Barley .....60  
 Oats .....64  
 Corn .....66  
 Alfalfa Seed .....67  
 Mustard Seed .....67  
 Potatoes .....68  
 Sugar Beets .....68  
 All Dry Beans .....69  
 Pinto Beans .....69  
 Garbanzo Beans .....70  
 Lentils .....70  
 Dry Peas .....71  
 Austrian Winter Peas .....71  
 Flaxseed .....72  
 Safflower .....72  
 Sunflower .....73  
 Canola .....73  
 All Hay .....74  
 Alfalfa Hay .....76  
 Grain Hay .....78  
 All Other Hay .....80  
 Wild Hay .....82  
 CRP Hay .....83  
 ALL Crops Harvested Acres .....84

**STATE ESTIMATES – LIVESTOCK**

CATTLE & CALVES

Inventory by Class & Cattle on Feed .....85  
 Calf Crop and Disposition .....85  
 Private Grazing Fee Rates .....85  
 Production and Income .....85  
 Number of Operations & Percent of Total Inventory .....86  
 Milk Cows on Farms, Production, and Milkfat .....86

SHEEP & LAMBS

Inventory by Class & Number of Operations .....87  
 Lamb Crop and Disposition .....87  
 Wool Production .....87  
 Production and Income .....87  
 Death Loss & Percent of Inventory Loss .....88  
 Predator & Non-Predator Loss and Value .....88  
 Death Loss by Cause .....89  
 Percent of Losses for Size of Flock by Cause .....89

HOGS & PIGS

Inventory by Class & Number of Operations .....90  
 Annual Farrowings and Disposition .....90  
 Production and Income .....90

CHICKENS, EGGS, & HONEY

Chickens: Inventory, Value, Production & Income .....91  
 Eggs: Production and Value .....91  
 Honey: Inventory, Yield, Production, Stocks & Value .....91  
 Dairy Products Marketed: Income and Value .....91  
 Red Meat Production by Month .....92  
 Monthly Slaughter .....92

**COUNTY ESTIMATES – LIVESTOCK**

INVENTORY & COUNTY RANKING

All Cattle & Calves .....93  
 Beef Cows & Heifers .....93  
 Milk Cows & Heifers .....94  
 All Sheep & Lambs .....94  
 Hogs & Pigs .....95  
 Chickens .....95

**AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS** .....96

**Comments from  
the Governor**



Montana's agricultural industry has changed dramatically over the years. The changes include fewer full-time agricultural producers, consolidation of suppliers, and world competition for both products and markets. To remain competitive, our agricultural producers and businesses – and businesses that might choose to come to Montana – must have the most reliable and accurate information available.

This 40th annual edition of Montana Agricultural Statistics provides our Montana producers and agribusinesses with the necessary information to make those decisions required to remain competitive in a dynamic and changing industry. The statistics also enable state and federal program managers to analyze the impacts of proposed changes in legislation and program rules.

With the information provided in this publication, in printed and electronic format, and with the support of all Montanans, our agricultural producers will continue to provide consumers worldwide with top quality products at reasonable prices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Martz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Martz  
Governor

**MESSAGE FROM  
THE DIRECTOR**



Montana's agricultural marketplace is ever changing, with an expansion in new crops and crop varieties and enhancements in historically important commodities. Malt barley production is expected to increase greatly with the addition of two new malt barley facilities in Sidney and Great Falls. The companies that made these investments did their homework, and are well aware of Montana's production capability and the location of improvements such as sprinkler irrigation. Agricultural statistics are an important tool in gauging the potential of new agricultural endeavors.

The 40th annual edition of Montana Agricultural Statistics provides such information. This information is provided through the courtesy of Montana producers who are willing to share their data with the rest of the industry. My deepest appreciation to those individuals.

As we encounter more global competition, current statistics and information become even more crucial in the decision making process. The department, in conjunction with the Montana Agricultural Statistical Service, will continue to provide that information, be it in printed or electronic format.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph Peck".

Ralph Peck, Director

**Notes from the  
State Statistician**



Once again Montana Agricultural Statistics Service is proud to publish the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of *Montana Agricultural Statistics*. Montana's agricultural sector continues to exceed two billion dollars and is a vital industry for Montana's economy. Montana dropped to seventh place in ranking among states exporting wheat and wheat products for fiscal year 2002, due to drought reduced production. Thank you to Montana's farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses who made this publication possible through their willingness to provide basic agricultural information.

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service works in cooperation with the Montana Department of Agriculture, the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, the Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee, Montana State University and many other producers' organizations to provide valuable agricultural information. Thanks to everyone who made this publication possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Sturgeon".