



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ACREAGE – JUNE 2015

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado principal crop planted acreage, which includes acres planted to all major crops and those expected to be cut for all hay, is down 3 percent from 2014 to 5,986,000 acres, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Colorado **corn** producers planted 1,100,000 acres of corn this year of which they intend to harvest 960,000 acres for grain, down from 1,010,000 acres harvested in 2014. This is a decrease of 5 percent from last year's harvested grain acreage and a 4 percent decrease in planted acreage for all purposes. **Sorghum** plantings, at 385,000 acres, increased 12 percent from the previous year and acreage expected to be harvested for grain, at 300,000, increased 7 percent.

Oat seedings are set at 45,000 acres, are unchanged from last year, with producers planning to harvest 7,000 acres for grain, down 2,000 acres from acreage harvested for grain in 2014. **Barley** planted area, at 65,000 acres, is 14 percent more than last year's acreage. Expected harvested acres, at 62,000 acres, are 15 percent above 2014.

Winter wheat producers planted 2,500,000 acres in the fall of 2014 for harvest in 2015, down from 2,750,000 acres planted for the previous year's crop. Acreage expected to be harvested for grain are unchanged from the May forecast at 2,250,000 acres. **Spring wheat** seedings, at 8,000 acres, are down 1,000 acres compared with a year ago. Acreage for harvest is expected to total 7,000 acres, down from 8,000 harvested last year. **Proso millet** seedings are expected to total 300,000 acres this year, down 3 percent from 2014.

The area to be harvested for **hay** is expected to increase 60,000 acres from a year ago to 1,400,000 acres. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage is expected to decrease 40,000 acres to 700,000 acres and **all other hay** harvested acreage is expected to increase 100,000 acres to 700,000 acres. **All sunflower** planted area, at 57,000 acres, is 12,500 acres above last year. Oil type varieties totaled 45,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from 2014 while non-oil type varieties are set at 12,000 acres, up 2,500 acres. Harvested acres are expected to total 40,000 acres for oil type and 11,000 acres for non-oil.

Sugarbeet plantings decreased 2,600 acres from last year to 27,000 acres. The expected harvested area, at 26,700 acres, is 2,600 acres below last year. Acres planted to **dry beans**, at 40,000 acres, are down 13 percent from last year. Harvested acres are expected to total 38,000 acres. **Fall potatoes** located in the San Luis Valley showed a 3 percent decrease in planted acres from 54,200 acres last year to 52,800 acres this year. Fall potatoes located outside the San Luis Valley in Colorado (included in Summer Potatoes prior to 2013) totaled 6,300 acres, up from 6,000 acres last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn: The 2015 corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 88.9 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. This represents the lowest planted acreage in the United States since 2010. Growers expect to harvest 81.1 million acres for grain, down 2 percent from last year. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that 98 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview, the same as the 10-year average.

Sorghum: Area planted to sorghum in 2015 is estimated at 8.84 million acres, up 24 percent from last year. Kansas and Texas, the leading sorghum producing States, account for 72 percent of the United States acreage. Growers expect to harvest 7.77 million acres for grain, up 21 percent from last year.

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Oats: Area seeded to oats for the 2015 crop year is estimated at 3.06 million acres, up 13 percent from 2014. However, this represents the fifth-lowest United States planted area on record. Record low planted acreage is estimated in Illinois, Utah, Texas, and Wyoming. Growers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres, up 19 percent from last year, but represents the fifth-lowest harvested acreage on record. Record low harvested acreage is expected in Arkansas, California, Utah, and Wyoming.

Barley: Producers seeded 3.41 million acres of barley for the 2015 crop year, up 15 percent from the previous year. Despite the increase, this represents the fourth-lowest seeded area on record. Harvested acres at 2.92 million acres, is up 19 percent from 2014. Record low planted acreage is estimated in California and Utah.

Winter wheat: The 2015 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 40.6 million acres, down less than 1 percent from the previous estimate and down 4 percent from last year. States with notable acreage increases from the previous estimate are Alabama and Texas. Of the total acreage, about 29.6 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.61 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.44 million are White Winter. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 33.3 million acres, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from last year. Harvested acres are down from last year in the Northern Great Plains due to dry conditions. Conversely, increases from last year are expected in Montana and the Northwest.

Other spring wheat: Area seeded to other spring wheat is estimated at 13.5 million acres, up 4 percent from 2014. Of this total, about 12.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. North Dakota, the largest producing spring wheat State, is estimated at 6.30 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. As of June 21, nineteen percent of the North Dakota other spring wheat crop was headed, 15 percentage points ahead of last year. Harvested area is expected to total 13.2 million acres, 4 percent above 2014. As of June 21, seventy-one percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, equivalent to the same time last year.

Proso millet: Area planted to proso millet in 2015 is estimated at 455,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from 2014. Planted acreage decreased from last year in Colorado and Nebraska, and is unchanged in South Dakota.

Hay: Producers intend to harvest 56.5 million acres of all hay in 2015, down 1 percent from 2014. The expected harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 18.3 million acres, is down less than 1 percent from 2014. All other types of hay harvested are expected to total 38.2 million acres, down 1 percent from 2014. Harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is expected to hold steady or decline in many Western States. The most noteworthy declines to other hay harvested acreage are expected throughout the Southern Plains and Southeast. A record low for all hay harvested area is expected in California and Ohio in 2015.

Sunflower: Area planted to sunflower in 2015 totals 1.68 million acres, up 8 percent from 2014. Harvested area is expected to increase 7 percent from last year to 1.61 million acres. Planted area of oil type varieties, at 1.40 million acres, is up 19 percent from 2014, but is the fifth lowest since 1976. Planted acreage of non-oil varieties, estimated at 283,000 acres, is down 27 percent from last year and is the third lowest since 1987. In North Dakota, planted area of non-oil varieties is down 38 percent from 2014 and is tied for the third lowest acreage since 1970.

Sugarbeets: Area planted to sugarbeets for the 2015 crop year is estimated at 1.16 million acres, up slightly from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 1.14 million acres, down 1 percent from last year.

Dry beans: United States dry edible bean planted area is estimated at 1.71 million acres for 2015, down less than 1 percent from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 1.66 million acres, also down less than 1 percent from the previous year. Planted area is lower than last year in 8 of the 18 estimating States.

Fall potatoes: Growers planted an estimated 955,300 acres of fall potatoes, up 2 percent from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 946,000 acres, 2 percent above 2014.

For a full copy of the *Acreage* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.