



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-9966



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2015

Contact: Bill Meyer
(800) 643-5533

CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2015

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on August 1 conditions, **corn** production in Colorado is forecast at 144.00 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down 2 percent from last year's 147.46 million bushels. The 960,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain this year is unchanged from the June forecast but 50,000 acres below the 1,010,000 acres harvested a year ago. Average yield is expected to increase 4.0 bushels per acre from last year to 150.0 bushels per acre. As of August 2, Colorado's corn crop condition was rated 3 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Corn silking was 72 percent complete, compared with 65 percent last year and the 5-year average of 72 percent.

Sorghum production in 2015 is forecast at 12.00 million bushels, up 43 percent from the 8.40 million bushels harvested a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 300,000 acres this year, unchanged from the June forecast but up from the 280,000 acres harvested last year. Average yield is forecast at 40.0 bushels per acre, 10.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of August 2, the sorghum crop condition was rated 5 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Sorghum headed was 20 percent complete, compared with 16 percent last year and the 5-year average of 33 percent.

Barley production is forecast at 8.31 million bushels, down 2 percent from the July 1 forecast but up 24 percent from last year's crop. Area for harvest in 2015, at 62,000 acres, is up 8,000 acres from the 54,000 acres harvested last year. Barley yield is forecast at 134.0 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from the July 1 forecast, but 10.0 bushels per acre higher than last year. As of August 2, the barley crop condition was rated 15 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 31 percent excellent. Barley harvest was 10 percent complete, compared with 26 percent last year and the 5-year average of 15 percent.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 83.25 million bushels, down 5 percent from the July 1 forecast and down 7 percent from the 89.30 million bushels produced last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 2.25 million acres, unchanged from July 1 but 100,000 acres less than the 2.35 million acres harvested in 2014. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 37.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels below the July 1 forecast and 1.0 bushel below last year's final yield. As of August 2, Colorado's winter wheat harvest was 95 percent complete, compared with 95 percent last year and the 5-year average of 97 percent.

Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 700,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, down 40,000 acres from 2014. They also expect to harvest 700,000 acres of **other hay** in 2015, up 100,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 2.80 million tons, up 11 percent from the 2.52 million tons produced in 2014. Other hay production is forecast at 1.33 million tons, up 27 percent from the 1.05 million tons a year ago. Yields are expected to average 4.00 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.90 tons per acre for other hay, compared to last year's yields of 3.40 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.75 tons for other hay.

Dry bean production for 2015 is forecast at 731,000 hundredweight, down 12 percent from the 835,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,700 pounds per acre, down from 1,900 pounds per acre last year. Growers expect to harvest 43,000 acres this year, down 1,000 acres from 44,000 acres last year. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 857,000 tons, down 7 percent from the 917,000 tons produced in 2014. Growers expect to harvest 26,700 acres this year compared with 29,300 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 32.1 tons per acre, up from 31.3 tons per acre a year ago.

Colorado **peach** production for 2015 is forecast at 13,000 tons, down 2 percent from last year's production of 13,260 tons. Colorado commercial **apple** production for 2015 is forecast at 1.80 million pounds, down 80 percent from last year's production of 8.90 million pounds.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Corn production is forecast at 13.7 billion bushels, down 4 percent from last year's record production. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 168.8 bushels per acre, down 2.2 bushels from 2014. If realized, this will be the second highest yield and third largest production on record for the United States. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.1 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but down 2 percent from 2014.

Sorghum production is forecast at 573 million bushels, up 32 percent from last year. If realized, this will represent the highest production total in the United States since 1999. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 7.67 million acres, down 1 percent from June but 20 percent more than was harvested in 2014. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is forecast at a record 74.6 bushels per acre, 7 bushels above the 2014 average and 1.4 bushels higher than the previous record yield set in 2007.

Barley production is forecast at 210 million bushels, up 1 percent from the July forecast and up 19 percent from 2014. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 71.8 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from the previous forecast but down 0.6 bushel from last year. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.92 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 19 percent from 2014.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.44 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the July 1 forecast but up 4 percent from 2014. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 43.2 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from last month but up 0.6 bushel from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 33.3 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 3 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 856 million bushels, is down 1 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 389 million bushels, is down 1 percent from the July forecast. White Winter, at 193 million bushels, is down 1 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 12.5 million bushels are Hard White and 181 million bushels are Soft White.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2015 is forecast at 62.1 million tons, up 1 percent from 2014. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.39 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, unchanged from June but down slightly from 2014.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 80.0 million tons, up 2 percent from 2014. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.09 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from last year. If realized, the 2015 average yield will be a record high and production will be the third highest on record behind 2004 and 2003. Harvested area is forecast at 38.2 million acres, unchanged from June but down 1 percent from 2014.

Production of **dry edible beans** is forecast at 29.3 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.75 million acres, up 2 percent from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 1.70 million acres, 2 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,721 pounds per acre, a decrease of 32 pounds from last season.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2015 crop year is forecast at 34.2 million tons, up 9 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.16 million acres, down slightly from the June *Acreage* report and down slightly from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, up slightly from the previous forecast but down slightly from 2014. Expected yield is forecast at 29.9 tons per acre, an increase of 2.5 tons from last year.

United States **peach** production is forecast at 804,600 tons, down 6 percent from 2014. United States **apple** production for the 2015 crop year is forecast at 10.2 billion pounds, down 11 percent from 2014.

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