



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PRODUCTION – SEPTEMBER 2015

### COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on September 1 conditions, **corn** production in Colorado is forecast at 145.92 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down one percent from last year's 147.46 million bushels. The 960,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain this year are unchanged from the August forecast but 50,000 acres below the 1,010,000 acres harvested a year ago. Corn yield is estimated at 152.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from the August 1 forecast and 6.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of August 30, Colorado's corn crop condition was rated 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Corn in the dent stage was 59 percent complete, compared with 29 percent last year and the 5-year average of 33 percent.

**Sorghum** production in 2015 is forecast at 12.00 million bushels, up 43 percent from the 8.40 million bushels harvested last year. Growers expect to harvest 300,000 acres this year, unchanged from the August forecast and up from the 280,000 acres harvested last year. Average yield is forecast at 40.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast and up 10.0 bushels from last year. As of August 30, Colorado's sorghum crop condition was rated 5 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Sorghum mature was 3 percent complete, compared with 10 percent last year and the 5-year average of 6 percent.

**Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 862,000 tons, down 6 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 32.3 tons per acre, up 0.2 tons per acre from the August 1 forecast and up from last year's yield of 31.3 tons per acre. As of August 30, Colorado's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 1 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn** production is forecast at 13.6 billion bushels, down 4 percent from last year's record production and down less than 1 percent from the August forecast. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 167.5 bushels per acre, down 1.3 bushels from the August forecast and down 3.5 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 August forecast but down 2 percent from 2014.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 574 million bushels, up less than one percent from last month and up 33 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 7.67 million acres, unchanged from August 1 but up 20 percent from 2014. Based on September 1 conditions, yield is forecast at a record 74.9 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and up 7.3 bushels from last year.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2015 crop year is forecast at 34.6 million tons, up 10 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast. Expected yield is forecast at 30.2 tons per acre, up 0.3 tons per acre from the August 1 forecast and an increase of 2.8 tons per acre from last year.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).