



NEWS RELEASE

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

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **corn** production in Colorado is forecast at 151.68 million bushels, up 3 percent from last year's 147.46 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The 960,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain this year are unchanged from the September forecast and 50,000 below the 1.01 million acres harvested a year ago. Corn yield is estimated at 158.0 bushels per acre, up 6.0 bushels from the September 1 forecast and 12.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of September 27, Colorado's corn crop condition was rated 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Corn harvested for grain was 7 percent complete, compared with 5 percent last year and the 5-year average of 10 percent.

Sorghum production in 2015 is forecast at 14.00 million bushels, up 67 percent from the 8.40 million bushels harvested last year. Growers expect to harvest 350,000 acres this year, up 50,000 acres from the September forecast and up from the 280,000 acres harvested last year. Average yield is forecast at 40.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast and up 10.0 bushels from last year. As of September 27, Colorado's sorghum crop condition was rated 10 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Sorghum harvested for grain was estimated at 6 percent complete, compared with 5 percent last year and the 5-year average of 4 percent.

The initial forecast of **all sunflower** production is estimated at 109.25 million pounds, up 63 percent from the 2014 crop of 67.10 million pounds. All sunflower yield is expected to average 1,619 pounds per acre, an increase of 94 pounds from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 67,500 acres, up from the 44,000 acres harvested last year. As of September 27, Colorado's sunflower crop condition was rated 8 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

Alfalfa hay production in Colorado is forecast at 2.80 million tons, up from the 2.52 million tons produced in 2014. Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 700,000 acres of alfalfa hay this year, down 40,000 acres from 2014. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 4.00 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 3.40 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 4.00 tons per acre. Producers expect to harvest 700,000 acres of **other hay** in 2015, up 100,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is estimated at 1.12 million tons, up 7 percent from the 1.05 million tons a year ago. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.60 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 1.75 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 1.90 tons per acre.

Sugarbeet production in Colorado 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, unchanged from the September 1 forecast and up from last year's yield of 31.3 tons per acre. As of September 27, Colorado's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 1 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 76 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Harvest of sugarbeets was estimated at 25 percent complete, compared with 23 percent last year and the 5-year average of 13 percent.

Dry bean production for 2015 is forecast at 1.06 million hundredweight, up 27 percent from the 835,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 2,300 pounds per acre, up 600 pounds per acre from the August 1 forecast and up from 1,900 pounds per acre last year. Growers expect to harvest 46,000 acres this year, up 2,000 acres from the 44,000 acres harvested last year. As of September 27, Colorado's dry bean crop condition was rated 1 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Dry bean harvest was estimated to be 33 percent complete, compared to 39 percent last year and the 5-year average of 49 percent.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 13.6 billion bushels, down 5 percent from last year's record production and down less than 1 percent from the September forecast. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 168.0 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel

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from the September forecast but down 3.0 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 80.7 million acres, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast and down 3 percent from 2014. Acreage updates were made in several States following a thorough review of all available data.

Sorghum production is forecast at 574 million bushels, down slightly from last month but up 33 percent from last year. Acreage updates were made in several States following a thorough review of all available data. Planted area, at 8.65 million acres, is down 1 percent from the previous estimate but up 21 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 7.65 million acres, down slightly from the September forecast but up 19 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is forecast at a record 75.0 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month and up 7.4 bushels from last year

The first **sunflower** production forecast for 2015 is 2.91 billion pounds, up 31 percent from 2014. Area planted, at 1.86 million acres, is up 10 percent from the June estimate and up 19 percent from last year. Sunflower growers expect to harvest 1.78 million acres, up 11 percent from June and up 18 percent from the 2014 acreage. The October yield forecast, at a record high 1,629 pounds per acre, is 160 pounds higher than last year's yield.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2015 is forecast at 63.2 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 3 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from August and up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, unchanged from August, but down less than 1 percent from 2014.

Other hay production is forecast at 79.2 million tons, down 1 percent from the August forecast but up 1 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.07 tons per acre, down 0.02 ton from August but up 0.04 ton from last year. If realized, yield would be a record high for the United States. Harvested area is forecast at 38.2 million acres, unchanged from August but down 1 percent from 2014.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2015 crop year is forecast at 34.8 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 11 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but down slightly from 2014. Expected yield is forecast at 30.4 tons per acre, an increase of 0.2 ton from the previous forecast and up 3.0 tons from last year.

United States **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 28.1 million cwt for 2015, down 4 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.76 million acres, up 2 percent from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 1.71 million acres, 2 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,648 pounds per acre, a decrease of 105 pounds from 2014.

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