



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 1, 2023

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **corn** production in Colorado is forecast at 136.96 million bushels, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down from the September 1 forecast but is up 16 percent from last year's 118.58-million-bushel crop. Harvested area, forecast at 1.07 million acres, is unchanged from the September *Crop Production* report but is up 90,000 acres from last year. Average yield, forecast at 128.0 bushels per acre, is down 2.0 bushels from the September 1 forecast but is up 7.0 bushels from last year. As of October 1, the corn crop condition was rated 5 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Producers had harvested 8 percent of the corn crop for grain, compared with 6 percent last year and the 5-year average of 15 percent.

Sorghum production in 2023 is forecast at 20.25 million bushels, down 9 percent from the September 1 forecast but 166 percent above the 7.60 million bushel crop produced a year earlier. Harvested area, forecast at 405,000 acres, is unchanged from the September *Crop Production* report but is up 25,000 acres from last year. Average yield is forecast at 50.0 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels below the September 1 forecast but 30.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of October 1, the sorghum crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 80 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Producers had harvested 6 percent of the crop for grain, compared with 9 percent last year and the 5-year average of 11 percent.

All sunflower production in Colorado is forecast at 35.30 million pounds, up 15 percent from the 30.62 million pound crop produced in 2022. All sunflower yield is expected to average 1,177 pounds per acre, up 546 from last year. Planted area, estimated at 35,000 acres, is down 27,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, estimated at 30,000 acres, is down 18,500 acres from last year. As of October 1, the sunflower crop was rated 1 very poor, 3 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 80 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 600,000 acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture hay** this year, a decrease of 10,000 acres from 2022. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 1.98 million tons, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but up 12 percent from the 1.77 million tons produced last year. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 3.30 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but up 0.4 ton from the final 2022 yield. Producers expect to harvest 490,000 acres of **other hay** in 2023, down 40,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 931,000 tons, down 14 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 5 percent from the 981,000 tons produced last year. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.90 tons per acre, down 0.3 ton from the August 1 forecast but up 0.05 ton from the final 2022 yield.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 562,000 tons, down less than one half of 1 percent from the September 1 forecast and down 4 percent from the 588,000 tons produced in 2022. Harvested area, forecast at 20,600 acres, is up 100 acres from last year. Yields are expected to average 27.3 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from the September 1 forecast and down from 28.7 tons a year ago. As of October 1, the sugarbeet crop was rated 1 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Producers had harvested 26 percent of the crop, compared with 24 percent last year and the 5-year average of 26 percent.

Dry bean production for 2023 is forecast at 583,000 hundredweight, up 3 percent from the August 1 forecast but down 14 percent from the 676,000 hundredweight produced last year. Yields are expected to average 1,850 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from the August 1 forecast but down 180 pounds from last year. Planted area is estimated at 33,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from the 35,000 acres planted in 2022. Growers expect to harvest 31,500 acres this year, down 1,800 acres from the 33,300 acres harvested last year. As of October 1, the dry bean crop was rated 2 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Producers had harvested 38 percent of the crop, compared with 43 percent last year and the 5-year average of 44 percent.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production for grain is forecast at 15.1 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the previous forecast but up 10 percent from 2022. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 173.0 bushels per harvested acre, down 0.8 bushel from the previous forecast and down 0.4 bushel from last year. Area harvested for grain, forecast at 87.1 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 10 percent from the last year.

Area harvested for **sorghum** grain is forecast at 6.26 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 37 percent from 2022. Production is forecast at 360 million bushels, down 6 percent from the previous estimate but up 91 percent from last year. Based on September 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 57.4 bushels per acre, 16.3 bushels above the 2022 yield of 41.1 bushels per acre.

The first **sunflower** production forecast for 2023 is 2.19 billion pounds, down 22 percent from the revised 2022 production of 2.81 billion pounds. Area planted, at 1.32 million acres, is down 2 percent from the June estimate and down 22 percent from last year. Sunflower growers expect to harvest 1.26 million acres, down 2 percent from the June forecast and down 21 percent from 2022. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data. The October yield forecast, at 1,738 pounds per acre, is 13 pounds lower than last year's yield but will still represent the third highest on record for the Nation, if realized.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2023 is forecast at 52.7 million tons, up 8 percent from the August forecast and up 10 percent from 2022. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.37 tons per acre, up 0.24 ton from the August forecast and up 0.15 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 15.7 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report but up 5 percent from 2022. Production of **other hay** is forecast at 70.1 million tons, up less than 1 percent from the August forecast and up 8 percent from 2022. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 1.93 tons per acre, up 0.01 ton from the August forecast and up 0.06 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 36.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report but up 5 percent from 2022.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2023 crop year is forecast at 34.7 million tons, down 1 percent from last month but up 7 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.12 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 2 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 31.1 tons per acre, down 0.4 ton from last month but up 2.5 tons from last year.

Production of **dry edible beans** is forecast at 22.4 million cwt, down 1 percent from previous forecast and down 13 percent from 2022. Area planted is estimated at 1.18 million acres, down 4 percent from the August forecast and down 5 percent from 2022. Area harvested is forecast at 1.14 million acres, down 4 percent from the August forecast and down 7 percent from 2022. The yield is forecast at 1,962 pounds per acre, an increase of 63 pounds from the previous forecast but a decrease of 151 pounds from last season.

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