



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 150969 • Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



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Contact: Rodger Ott  
(800) 392-3202

## ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY – 2023

### COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Production of the 2023 **corn for grain** crop in Colorado is estimated at 123.83 million bushels, up 6 percent, or 6.46 million bushels, from last year's production of 117.37 million bushels, according to the December 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The average yield of 122.0 bushels per acre is 1.0 bushel above last year. Planted area totaled 1.33 million acres, compared with 1.34 million acres last year. Area harvested for grain in 2023, at 1.02 million acres, is 45,000 acres above last year. Area harvested for **corn silage** is estimated at 235,000 acres, up 45,000 acres, or 24 percent, from last year, with production estimated at 5.76 million tons, compared with 3.71 million tons produced last year.

**Sorghum for grain** production in Colorado is estimated at 14.72 million bushels, up 94 percent, or 7.12 million bushels, from the previous year. Average yield is estimated at 32.0 bushels per acre, up 12.0 bushels from last year. Planted area totaled 510,000 acres, compared with 545,000 acres last year. Producers harvested 460,000 acres for grain, up 80,000 acres from last year. Area harvested for **sorghum silage** is estimated at 25,000 acres, down 25,000 acres from last year, with production estimated at 350,000 tons, compared with 700,000 tons produced last year.

Colorado **barley** producers seeded 54,000 acres in 2023, down 7,000 acres or 11 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 51,000 acres, is up 11,000 acres from 2022. Barley yield, at 131.0 bushels per acre, is up 20.0 bushels from last year. Barley production is estimated at 6.68 million bushels, up 50 percent from the 4.44-million-bushel crop produced in 2022.

**Winter wheat** production in Colorado, estimated at 74.62 million bushels, is up 108 percent from the 35.75-million-bushel crop produced in 2022. Producers seeded 2.30 million acres in the fall of 2022 for harvest in 2023, up from the 1.95 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Area harvested for grain increased 390,000 acres from last year to 1.82 million acres in 2023. Winter wheat yield, at 41.0 bushels per acre, is up 16.0 bushels from last year.

**Proso millet** production in the state is estimated at 11.66 million bushels, up from 6.38 million bushels produced last year. Planted area is estimated at 390,000 acres, down 55,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 370,000 acres, is 25,000 acres above the 345,000 acres harvested in 2022. Yield averaged 31.5 bushels per acre in 2023, up 13.0 bushels from last year.

**All dry hay** production in Colorado for 2023 is estimated at 3.12 million tons, up 14 percent from the 2022 total production of 2.75 million tons. **Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures dry hay** production is estimated at 2.21 million tons from 650,000 acres harvested, up 441,000 tons from 2022. Average yield for the 2023 crop is 3.40 tons per acre, 0.50 ton above last year. **All other dry hay** production totaled 912,000 tons from 570,000 acres harvested, down 60,000 tons from 2022. The average yield of 1.60 tons per acre is 0.25 ton below last year. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Colorado are estimated at 80,000 acres, up 25,000 acres from 2022.

As of December 1, producers in Colorado were storing 1.65 million tons of **all dry hay** on farms, up 22 percent from the 1.35 million tons stored last year.

**All sunflower** production in 2023 is estimated at a record low 28.06 million pounds from a record low 29,000 acres harvested. Yield is estimated at 968 pounds per acre, up from 662 pounds last year. Production of **oil varieties** increased 3 percent from the previous year to 22.56 million pounds. Production of **non-oil varieties** decreased 37 percent from the previous year to a record low 5.50 million pounds.

The state's 2023 **sugarbeet** crop totaled 603,000 tons, up 3 percent from the 588,000 tons produced last year. Planted area totaled 23,200 acres, compared with 23,400 acres last year. Producers harvested 21,300 acres in 2023, up from 20,500 acres in 2022. Average yield is estimated at 28.3 tons per acre, 0.4 ton below last year.

Colorado **potato** growers produced an estimated 21.10 million hundredweight of potatoes in 2023, down 2 percent from last year. Average yield is estimated at 385 hundredweight per acre, down 20 hundredweight from last year. Planted area totaled 55,000 acres, compared with 53,000 acres in 2022. Harvested area is estimated at 54,800 acres, up from the 52,900 acres harvested last year.

**Dry edible bean** production in Colorado for 2023 is estimated at 543,000 hundredweight, 18 percent below last year's 660,000-hundredweight crop. Average yield totaled 1,830 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from 2022. Planted area totaled 33,000 acres, compared with 34,000 acres a year ago. Harvested area, at 29,700 acres, is 2,800 acres below last year. **Pinto bean** production for 2023 equaled 339,000 hundredweight, down 21 percent from last year.

**Winter wheat seedings** in Colorado for the 2024 crop year are estimated at 2.00 million acres, down 300,000 acres from the final planted area realized in 2023.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn for grain** production in 2023 was estimated at a record high 15.3 billion bushels, up 12 percent from the 2022 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at a record high 177.3 bushels per acre, 3.9 bushels above the 2022 yield of 173.4 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 86.5 million acres, up 10 percent from the 2022 estimate. **Corn silage** production was estimated at 130 million tons for 2023, up 1 percent from the 2022 estimate. The United States silage yield was estimated at 20.1 tons per acre, up 1.4 tons from 2022. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.47 million acres, down 6 percent from the 2022 estimate.

**Sorghum for grain** production in 2023 was estimated at 318 million bushels, up 69 percent from the 2022 total. Planted area for 2023 was estimated at 7.20 million acres, up 14 percent from 2022. Area harvested for grain, at 6.12 million acres, was up 34 percent from 2022. Grain yield was estimated at 52.0 bushels per acre, up 10.9 bushels from 2022. **Sorghum silage** production was estimated at 4.98 million tons, down 12 percent from 2022. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 384,000 acres, down 27 percent from the previous year. Silage yield averaged 13.0 tons per acre, up 2.2 tons per acre from 2022.

**Barley** production was estimated at 185 million bushels, up 6 percent from the 2022 total of 175 million bushels. The average yield, at 72.4 bushels per acre, was up 0.8 bushel from the previous year. Producers seeded 3.10 million acres in 2023, up 5 percent from 2022. Harvested area, at 2.56 million acres, was up 4 percent from 2022.

**All wheat** production totaled 1.81 billion bushels in 2023, up 10 percent from the 2022 total of 1.65 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 37.3 million acres, up 5 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 48.6 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2022 by type were: winter wheat, 1.25 billion bushels, up 13 percent; other spring wheat, 505 million bushels, up 5 percent; and Durum wheat, 59.3 million bushels, down 7 percent. **Winter wheat** production for 2023 totaled 1.25 billion bushels, up 13 percent from the 2022 total of 1.10 billion bushels. The United States yield, at 50.6 bushels per acre, was up 3.6 bushels from 2022. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 24.7 million acres, up 5 percent from 2022. Compared with 2022, harvested acreage was up 2 percent in the major Hard Red Winter (HRW) growing States, the primary winter wheat-producing area. HRW production totaled 601 million bushels, up 13 percent from 2022. In the Soft Red Winter (SRW) growing area, planted and harvested acreage increased from 2022. Coupled with several States estimated record high yields, SRW production totaled 449 million bushels, up 34 percent from 2022. White winter wheat production totaled 198 million bushels, down 16 percent from 2022. Harvested acreage was down 3 percent from 2022.

Production of **proso millet** in 2023 totaled a record high 19.6 million bushels, up 114 percent from the 2022 production of 9.16 million bushels. Area planted to proso millet in the United States was estimated at 619,000 acres, down 18,000 acres (or 2.8 percent) from 2022. Area harvested in the United States, at 572,000 acres, was up 79,000 acres (or 16 percent) from the 2022 harvested estimate. The average yield for 2023 was estimated at 34.2 bushels per acre, up 15.6 bushels from the 2022 yield of 18.6 bushels per acre.

Production of **all dry hay** for 2023 was estimated at 119 million tons, up 6 percent from the 2022 total. Area harvested was estimated at 52.8 million acres, up 8 percent from 2022. The average yield, at 2.25 tons per acre, was down 0.04 ton from 2022. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures hay** in 2023 was estimated at 49.9 million tons, up 2 percent from the 2022 total. Harvested area, at 15.6 million acres, was 3 percent above 2022. Average yield was estimated at 3.19 tons per acre, down 0.03 ton from 2022. Production of **all other hay** in 2023 totaled 68.9 million tons, up 9 percent from the 2022 total. Harvested area, at 37.2 million acres, was up 11 percent from 2022. Average yield was estimated at 1.85 tons per acre, down 0.02 ton from 2022. Growers seeded 1.74 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2023, up 4 percent from 2022. New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures are normally harvested for the first time in the year following planting.

**All hay** stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2023, totaled 76.7 million tons, down 7 percent from December 1, 2022. Disappearance from May 1, 2023 - December 1, 2023, totaled 56.4 million tons, down 1 percent from the same period in 2022.

The 2023 **sunflower** production totaled 2.26 billion pounds, down 19 percent from 2022. The United States average yield of 1,786 pounds per acre increased 30 pounds from 2022. Planted area, at 1.32 million acres, was 22 percent below the previous year. Area harvested decreased 21 percent from 2022 to 1.27 million acres. United States production of **oil-type sunflower** varieties, at 1.97 billion pounds, decreased 23 percent from 2022. Compared with the previous year, harvested acres were down 25 percent and the average yield increased by 2 pounds to 1,747 pounds per acre, and represents the second highest yield on record for the Nation. Production of **non-oil sunflower** varieties was estimated at 297 million pounds, an increase of 23 percent from 2022. Area harvested, at 142,000 acres, was up 7 percent from 2022. The average yield increased by 206 pounds from 2022 to a record high 2,090 pounds per acre.

**Sugarbeet** production for 2023 was estimated at 35.2 million tons, up 8 percent from the previous year's revised production. Growers in the 11 major sugarbeet-producing States planted 1.14 million acres, down 2 percent from 2022. Harvested area, at 1.13 million acres, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 31.2 tons per acre, was up 2.5 tons from last year.

Production of **potatoes** in 2023 was estimated at 441 million cwt, up 10 percent from the 2022 crop. Planted area, at 965,000 acres, was up 5 percent from 2022. Harvested area, at 960,200 acres, was up 5 percent from the previous year. The average yield, at 459 cwt per acre, was up 21 cwt from the previous year.

United States **dry edible bean** production was estimated at 23.9 million cwt for 2023, down 7 percent from the previous year. Planted area was estimated at 1.18 million acres, down 5 percent from 2022. Harvested area was estimated at 1.16 million acres, down 5 percent from the previous year. The average United States yield for dry edible beans for the 2023 season is 2,067 pounds per acre, down 44 pounds from 2022.

**Winter wheat** seeded area for 2024 is expected to total 34.4 million acres, down 6 percent from 2023. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 24.0 million; Soft Red Winter, 6.86 million; and White Winter, 3.54 million.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2023 Summary* report, please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).