



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



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ACREAGE – JUNE 2015

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Montana principal crop planted acreage, which includes acres planted to all major crops and those expected to be cut for all hay, is up slightly from 2014 to 9,970,000 acres, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Montana **corn** producers planted 110,000 acres of corn this year of which they intend to harvest 50,000 acres for grain, down from 75,000 acres harvested in 2014. This is a decrease of 33 percent from last year's harvested grain acreage and a 15 percent decrease in planted acreage for all purposes. **Oat** seedings are set at 50,000 acres, an increase of 5,000 acres from last year, with producers planning to harvest 22,000 acres for grain, up 6,000 acres from acreage harvested for grain in 2014. **Barley** planted area, at 1,010,000 acres, is 10 percent more than last year's acreage. Expected harvested acres, at 860,000 acres are 12 percent above 2014.

Winter wheat producers planted 2,400,000 acres in the fall of 2014 for harvest in 2015, down from 2,500,000 acres planted for the previous year's crop. Acreage expected to be harvested for grain is unchanged from the May forecast at 2,300,000 acres. **Durum wheat** seedings, at 630,000 acres, are up 195,000 acres compared with a year ago. Acreage for harvest is expected to total 620,000 acres, up from 430,000 acres harvested last year. **Spring wheat** seedings, at 2,800,000 acres, are down 250,000 acres compared with a year ago. Acreage for harvest is expected to total 2,750,000 acres, down from 2,980,000 acres harvested last year.

The area to be harvested for **hay** is expected to increase 70,000 acres from a year ago to 2,800,000 acres. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage is expected to increase 50,000 acres to 1,900,000 acres and **all other hay** harvested acreage is expected to increase 20,000 acres to 900,000 acres.

Canola growers planted an estimated 60,000 acres this year, down 3,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are expected to total 58,000 acres, down from 61,000 harvested in 2014. **Flaxseed** planted area, at 20,000 acres, is 8,000 acres below last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 18,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from last year. **Safflower** growers planted an estimated 25,000 acres this year, down 29,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are expected to total 24,000 acres, down from 50,500 acres harvested in 2014.

Sugarbeet plantings decreased 400 acres from last year to 44,700 acres. The expected harvested area, at 44,400 acres, is unchanged from last year. Acres planted to **dry beans**, at 54,000, acres are up 44 percent from last year. Harvested acres are expected to total 52,500 acres.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn: The 2015 corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 88.9 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. This represents the lowest planted acreage in the United States since 2010. Growers expect to harvest 81.1 million acres for grain, down 2 percent from last year. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that 98 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview, the same as the 10-year average.

Oats: Area seeded to oats for the 2015 crop year is estimated at 3.06 million acres, up 13 percent from 2014. However, this represents the fifth-lowest United States planted area on record. Record low planted acreage is estimated in Illinois, Utah, Texas, and Wyoming. Growers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres, up 19 percent from last year, but represents the fifth-lowest harvested acreage on record. Record low harvested acreage is expected in Arkansas, California, Utah, and Wyoming.

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Barley: Producers seeded 3.41 million acres of barley for the 2015 crop year, up 15 percent from the previous year. Despite the increase, this represents the fourth-lowest seeded area on record. Harvested acres at 2.92 million acres, is up 19 percent from 2014. Record low planted acreage is estimated in California and Utah.

Winter wheat: The 2015 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 40.6 million acres, down less than 1 percent from the previous estimate and down 4 percent from last year. States with notable acreage increases from the previous estimate are Alabama and Texas. Of the total acreage, about 29.6 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.61 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.44 million are White Winter. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 33.3 million acres, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from last year. Harvested acres are down from last year in the Northern Great Plains due to dry conditions. Conversely, increases from last year are expected in Montana and the Northwest.

Durum wheat: Area seeded to Durum wheat is estimated at 1.95 million acres, up 40 percent from 2014. Planted area in North Dakota, the largest producing Durum wheat State, is estimated at 1.10 million acres, an increase of 31 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 1.91 million acres, 43 percent above 2014. As of June 21, crop emergence in North Dakota stood at 94 percent, 14 percentage points ahead of the five-year average.

Other spring wheat: Area seeded to other spring wheat is estimated at 13.5 million acres, up 4 percent from 2014. Of this total, about 12.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. North Dakota, the largest producing spring wheat State, is estimated at 6.30 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. As of June 21, nineteen percent of the North Dakota other spring wheat crop was headed, 15 percentage points ahead of last year. Harvested area is expected to total 13.2 million acres, 4 percent above 2014. As of June 21, seventy-one percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, equivalent to the same time last year.

Hay: Producers intend to harvest 56.5 million acres of all hay in 2015, down 1 percent from 2014. The expected harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 18.3 million acres, is down less than 1 percent from 2014. All other types of hay harvested are expected to total 38.2 million acres, down 1 percent from 2014. Harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is expected to hold steady or decline in many Western States. The most noteworthy declines to other hay harvested acreage are expected throughout the Southern Plains and Southeast. A record low for all hay harvested area is expected in California and Ohio in 2015.

Canola: Producers planted 1.57 million acres in 2015, down 8 percent from 2014. Despite the decline, estimated planted area in the Nation is the third largest on record. Planted area in North Dakota, the leading canola-producing State, is estimated at 1.23 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. The harvested area for the Nation is forecast at 1.52 million acres, down 2 percent from last year.

Flaxseed: Area planted to flaxseed in 2015 is estimated at 420,000 acres, up 109,000 acres, or 35 percent, from last year. Acreage in North Dakota, the largest flaxseed-producing State, is up 42 percent, or 115,000 acres, from 2014. Although planting got off to a late start in the flaxseed growing region, North Dakota had planted 85 percent of the crop by May 31, well ahead of the 5-year average of 51 percent.

Safflower: Planted area of safflower decreased 19 percent from 2014, to 147,000 acres in 2015. This is the second lowest planted area for the Nation since records began in 1991. Area for harvest is forecast at 142,300 acres, down 16 percent from last year. Growers in Montana, the largest State in terms of planted area in 2014, planted only 25,000 acres this year, a decline of more than 50 percent from last year. This is the second lowest planted area for Montana since records began in 1999.

Sugarbeets: Area planted to sugarbeets for the 2015 crop year is estimated at 1.16 million acres, up slightly from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 1.14 million acres, down 1 percent from last year.

Dry beans: United States dry edible bean planted area is estimated at 1.71 million acres for 2015, down less than 1 percent from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 1.66 million acres, also down less than 1 percent from the previous year. Planted area is lower than last year in 8 of the 18 estimating States.

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