



NEWS RELEASE

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



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CROP PRODUCTION – JULY 2015

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on July 1 conditions, **winter wheat** production in Montana is forecast at 94.30 million bushels, down 7 percent from the June 1 forecast, but 3 percent above the 91.84 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.30 million acres, is unchanged from June 1 and 60,000 acres more than the 2.24 million acres harvested in 2014. As of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 41.0 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels below the June 1 forecast, but even with last year's final yield.

As of June 28, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Winter wheat headed was at 97 percent, compared to 73 percent last year and the 5-year average of 70 percent.

Durum wheat production in Montana is forecast at 16.74 million bushels, up 26 percent from the 13.33 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 620,000 acres, is 190,000 acres more than the 430,000 acres harvested in 2014. As of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 27.0 bushels per acre, 4.0 bushels below last year's final yield.

As of June 28, Montana's durum wheat crop condition was rated 8 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Durum wheat in the boot stage was at 52 percent, compared to 22 percent last year and the 5-year average of 22 percent.

Spring wheat production in Montana is forecast at 88.00 million bushels, down 16 percent from the 104.30 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.75 million acres, is 230,000 acres less than the 2.98 million acres harvested in 2014. As of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 32.0 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels below last year's final yield.

As of June 28, Montana's spring wheat crop condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Spring wheat headed was at 32 percent, compared to 22 percent last year and the 5-year average of 12 percent.

Barley production is forecast at 45.58 million bushels, up 2 percent from the 2014 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 860,000 acres, up 90,000 acres from the 770,000 harvested last year. Barley yield is forecast at 53.0 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels per acre below last year.

As of June 28, Montana's barley crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Barley headed was at 67 percent, compared to 13 percent last year and the 5-year average of 16 percent.

Oat production is forecast at 1.32 million bushels, up 20 percent from the 2014 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 22,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from the 16,000 harvested last year. Oat yield is forecast at 60.0 bushels per acre, 9.0 bushels per acre below last year.

As of June 28, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Oats in the boot stage were at 82 percent, compared to 48 percent last year and the 5-year average of 49 percent.

Dry edible pea growers planted an estimated 545,000 acres this year, up 20,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are expected to total 505,000 acres, up from 504,000 harvested in 2014. **Lentil** planted area, at 230,000 acres, is 100,000 acres above last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 220,000 acres, up from 119,000 acres harvested last year. **Austrian winter pea** growers planted an estimated 10,000 acres this year, down 2,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are expected to total 6,000 acres, down from 7,000 acres harvested in 2014.

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UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.46 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the June 1 forecast but up 6 percent from 2014. Based on July 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 43.7 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from last month but up 1.1 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 33.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2015 but up 3 percent from last year.

Hard Red Winter production, at 866 million bushels, is down 2 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 393 million bushels, is down 5 percent from the June forecast. White Winter, at 196 million bushels, is down 4 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 12.7 million bushels are Hard White and 183 million bushels are Soft White.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 75.5 million bushels, up 42 percent from 2014. The United States yield is forecast at 39.6 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 1.91 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2015 but up 43 percent from last year.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 617 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 13.2 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2015 but up 4 percent from last year. The United States yield is forecast at 46.7 bushels per acre, equal to the 2014 yield. Of the total production, 573 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 3 percent from last year.

Barley production is forecast at 208 million bushels, up 18 percent from 2014. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 71.3 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.92 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 19 percent from 2014. When compared with last year, yields are expected to increase in Colorado and Minnesota due to favorable spring weather. Dry conditions have led to expected yield decreases in Montana and Washington. Record barley yields are expected in Colorado and Idaho.

Oat production is forecast at 83.6 million bushels, up 20 percent from 2014. Growers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres for grain or seed, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2015, but up 19 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 68.6 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from 2014. If realized, this will be a new record high United States yield, 0.7 bushel higher than the previous record high in 2009.

Planted area of **dry edible peas** is estimated at 980,000 acres, up 5 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 927,000 acres, is 3 percent above a year ago. This is the highest planted acreage on record and, if realized, will be the largest harvested acreage on record.

Lentil planted area is estimated at 485,000 acres, up 73 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 468,000 acres, is 81 percent above a year ago. Planted area is the second highest on record, only below the 658,000 acres estimated in 2010.

Planted area of **Austrian winter peas** is estimated at 28,000 acres, up 17 percent from a year ago. Area harvested is expected to total 21,000 acres, up 25 percent from 2014.

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