



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626  
Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



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Contact: Eric Sommer  
(800) 835-2612

## CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2015

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on August 1 conditions, **oat** production in Montana is forecast at 1.21 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down 8 percent from the July 1 forecast but up 10 percent from the 2014 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 22,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from the 16,000 acres harvested last year. Oat yield is forecast at 55.0 bushels per acre, down 5.0 bushels from the July 1 forecast and down 14.0 bushels from last year. As of August 2, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Oats turning color were at 85 percent complete, compared with 53 percent last year and the 5-year average of 53 percent.

**Barley** production is forecast at 47.30 million bushels, up 4 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 6 percent from last year's crop. The area for harvest in 2015, at 860,000 acres, is up 90,000 acres from the 770,000 acres harvested last year. Barley yield is forecast at 55.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from July 1 but 3.0 bushels below last year. As of August 2, the barley crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Barley harvest was 25 percent complete, compared with 1 percent last year and the 5-year average of 4 percent.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 94.30 million bushels, unchanged from the July 1 forecast but up 3 percent from the 91.84 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.30 million acres, is unchanged from July 1 but 60,000 acres more than the 2.24 million acres harvested in 2014. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 41.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the July 1 forecast, and even with last year's final yield. As of August 2, the winter wheat crop condition was 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Winter wheat harvest was 70 percent complete, compared with 35 percent last year and the 5-year average of 20 percent.

**Durum wheat** production is forecast at 17.98 million bushels, up 7 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 35 percent from the 13.33 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 620,000 acres, is unchanged from July 1 but 190,000 acres more than the 430,000 acres harvested in 2014. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 29.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above the July 1 forecast but 2.0 bushels below last year's final yield. As of August 2, the durum wheat crop condition was rated 8 percent very poor, 46 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Durum wheat turning color was at 87 percent complete, compared to 20 percent last year and the 5-year average of 27 percent.

**Spring wheat** production in Montana is forecast at 85.25 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July 1 forecast and down 18 percent from the 104.30 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.75 million acres, is unchanged from July 1 but down 230,000 acres from the 2.98 million acres harvested in 2014. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 31.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel below the July 1 forecast and 4.0 bushels below last year's final yield. As of August 2, the spring wheat crop condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Spring wheat turning color was at 94 percent complete, compared with 68 percent last year and the 5-year average of 45 percent.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.90 million acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, up 50,000 acres from 2014. They also expect to harvest 900,000 acres of **other hay** in 2015, up 20,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 3.42 million tons, down 12 percent from 3.89 million tons produced in 2014. Other hay production is forecast at 1.71 million tons, up 14 percent from 1.50 million tons a year ago. Yields are expected to average 1.80 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.90 tons per acre for other hay, compared to last year's yields of 2.10 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.70 tons for other hay.

**Dry bean** production for 2015 is forecast at 810,000 hundredweight, up 34 percent from the 603,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,800 pounds per acre, up from 1,630 pounds per acre last year. Growers expect to harvest

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45,000 acres this year, up 8,000 acres from 37,000 acres last year. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 1.34 million tons, down 7 percent from 1.43 million tons produced in 2014. Growers expect to harvest 43,800 acres this year compared with 44,400 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 30.6 tons per acre, down from 32.3 tons per acre a year ago.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Oat** production is forecast at 85.5 million bushels, up 2 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 23 percent from 2014. Growers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres for grain or seed, unchanged from July but up 19 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 70 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from the July 1 forecast and 2.3 bushels above the 2014 average yield. If realized, this will be a new record high yield, 2.1 bushels higher than the previous record high set in 2009.

**Barley** production is forecast at 210 million bushels, up 1 percent from the July forecast and up 19 percent from 2014. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 71.8 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from the previous forecast but down 0.6 bushel 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.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.44 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the July 1 forecast but up 4 percent from 2014. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 43.2 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from last month but up 0.6 bushel from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 33.3 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 3 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 856 million bushels, is down 1 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 389 million bushels, is down 1 percent from the July forecast. White Winter, at 193 million bushels, is down 1 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 12.5 million bushels are Hard White and 181 million bushels are Soft White.

**Durum wheat** production is forecast at 76.8 million bushels, up 2 percent from July and up 45 percent from 2014. The United States yield is forecast at 40.2 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month and 0.5 bushel from last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 1.90 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 43 percent from last year.

**Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 621 million bushels, up less than 1 percent from the July forecast and up 4 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 13.2 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 4 percent from last year. The United States yield is forecast at 47.0 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from both last month and last year. Of the total production, 576 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up slightly from the previous forecast and up 4 percent from last year.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2015 is forecast at 62.1 million tons, up 1 percent from 2014. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.39 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, unchanged from June but down slightly from 2014.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 80.0 million tons, up 2 percent from 2014. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.09 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from last year. If realized, the 2015 average yield will be a record high and production will be the third highest on record behind 2004 and 2003. Harvested area is forecast at 38.2 million acres, unchanged from June but down 1 percent from 2014.

Production of **dry edible beans** is forecast at 29.3 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.75 million acres, up 2 percent from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 1.70 million acres, 2 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,721 pounds per acre, a decrease of 32 pounds from last season.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2015 crop year is forecast at 34.2 million tons, up 9 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.16 million acres, down slightly from the June *Acreage* report and down slightly from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, up slightly from the previous forecast but down slightly from 2014. Expected yield is forecast at 29.9 tons per acre, an increase of 2.5 tons from last year.

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