



# 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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 31, 2015

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## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2015

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Montana growers intend to plant 110,000 acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2015, down 20,000 acres and 15 percent below last year's plantings, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The area expected to be seeded to **oats**, at 50,000 acres, is up 5,000 acres from a year ago. Growers intend to plant 920,000 acres of **barley** in 2015, unchanged from last year's actual plantings. **All wheat** acreage is expected to total 5.78 million acres for 2015. **Winter wheat** seedings last fall for harvest in 2015 are estimated at 2.40 million acres, down 100,000 acres from the 2014 crop. Growers intend to seed 580,000 acres of **durum wheat** this year, up 145,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to seed 2.80 million acres of **spring wheat** this year, down 250,000 acres from last year. **Hay** producers in the State intend to harvest 2.80 million acres this year. This is up 70,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2014. Montana **canola** producers intend to plant 60,000 acres in 2015, down 3,000 acres from 2014. **Flaxseed** producers intend to plant 18,000 acres in 2015, down 10,000 acres from last year. The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to be down 2,400 acres from last year's actual plantings to 42,600 acres. **Dry edible bean** acreage is expected to total 53,000 acres, up 41 percent from the 37,500 acres planted in 2014. All **garbanzo beans** (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 43,000 acres, up 11,500 acres from 2014. **Lentil** acres planted for 2015 is expected to total 180,000 acres, up 50,000 acres from last year. All **dry edible pea** area planted is expected to total 570,000 acres, up 45,000 acres from last year. **Austrian winter pea** area planted is expected to total 8,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from 2014.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn** planted area for all purposes in 2015 is estimated at 89.2 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the third consecutive year of an acreage decline and would be the lowest planted acreage in the United States since 2010.

Area seeded to **oats** for the 2015 crop year is expected to total 2.93 million acres, up 8 percent from 2014. If realized, United States planted acres will be the fourth lowest on record. Record low planted acreage is estimated in Oregon, Texas, and Wyoming.

**Barley** producers intend to seed 3.26 million acres of barley for the 2015 crop year, up 10 percent from the previous year. If realized, this will be the fourth smallest seeded area on record. Record low acreage is expected in California, New York, and Utah.

**All wheat** planted area for 2015 is estimated at 55.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2014. The 2015 winter wheat planted area, at 40.8 million acres, is down 4 percent from last year but up less than 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 29.6 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.75 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.43 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2015 is estimated at 13.0 million acres, down slightly from 2014. Of this total, about 12.1 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2015 is estimated at 1.65 million acres, up 18 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 57.1 million acres of **all dry hay** in 2015, virtually unchanged from 2014. Hay acreage is expected to increase in the Mid-Atlantic and Central Plains. However, this is offset by expected decreases across the Southern and Pacific States, as well as in the Upper Midwest. Record high acreage is expected in Louisiana. Record low acreage is expected in California, Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio.

**Canola** producers intend to plant 1.55 million acres in 2015, down 9 percent from 2014. If realized, planted area in the United States will be the fourth largest on record. Compared with last year, planted area is expected to decrease in five of the seven major canola-producing States, with acreage in Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington expected to decrease more than 40 percent from the previous year. Producers in North Dakota, the leading canola-producing State, intend to remain at last year's level of 1.20 million acres.

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**Flaxseed** producers intent to plant 401,000 acres of flaxseed in 2015, up 90,000 acres, or 29 percent more than was planted in 2014. Acreage in North Dakota, the largest flaxseed-producing State, is up 35 percent, or 95,000 acres, from the previous year.

Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2015 crop year is estimated at 1.18 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Intended plantings are above the previous year in seven of the ten estimating States.

Area planted to **dry beans** in 2015 is expected to be 1.74 million acres, up 1 percent from the previous season. Expected area planted for all chickpeas is 196,900 acres, down 8 percent from last season. Small chickpeas, at 69,500 acres, is 4 percent above 2014, while large chickpeas, at 127,400 acres, decreased 14 percent from the previous year.

Area planted for the 2015 crop year for **lentils** is expected to total 385,000 acres, up 37 percent from 2014. Prospective plantings are up in Montana, North Dakota, and Washington, while Idaho growers expect a 20 percent decline from last season. Montana's anticipated area is up 38 percent from 2014, while North Dakota growers expect to plant 73 percent more acres than a year ago.

**Dry edible peas** area planted for the 2015 crop year is expected to total 1.01 million acres, up 7 percent from 2014. If realized, this will be a record high planted area. Prospective plantings are up in Montana and North Dakota, down in Idaho and Oregon, and expected to be the same in Washington. If realized, Montana's expected planted area, at 570,000 acres, will be a record high.

Intended planted area for **Austrian winter peas** for 2015 is estimated at 20,000 acres, down 17 percent from 2014. Growers in Idaho and Oregon showed no acreage change from 2014, while Montana farmers anticipate lower plantings from a year ago.

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