



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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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY – 2015

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

The 2015 **corn** for grain crop was estimated at 5.50 million bushels, 27 percent below last year's production of 7.50 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The average yield of 110.0 bushels per acre was 10.0 bushels per acre above the yield realized last year. Area harvested for grain in 2015, at 50,000 acres, was 25,000 acres below from last year. Acreage cut for corn silage was estimated at 50,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from last year, with production estimated at 1.15 million tons, compared with 1.12 million tons produced last year.

Oat seedings in Montana totaled 50,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 22,000 acres for grain or seed, up 6,000 acres from 2014. Oat production totaled 1.17 million bushels in 2015, up 6 percent from last year. Oat yield is 53.0 bushels per acre in 2015, down 16.0 bushels per acre from the previous year.

Montana's **barley** seeded area, at 970,000 acres, is up 50,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 850,000 acres, is up 80,000 acres from 2014. Barley yield, at 52.0 bushels per acre, is down 6.0 bushels per acre from last year. Barley production in 2015 is estimated at 44.20 million bushels, down 1 percent from the previous year.

All wheat production in Montana, estimated at 185.42 million bushels, is down 11 percent from 2014. All wheat yield was 35.2 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels per acre from a year ago. **Winter wheat** producers seeded 2.35 million acres in the fall of 2014 for harvest in 2015, down from 2.50 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Area harvested for grain decreased 20,000 acres from last year to 2.22 million acres in 2015. Winter wheat production is estimated at 91.02 million bushels, down 1 percent from last year. Winter wheat yield, at 41.0 bushels per acre, is unchanged from last year. **Spring wheat** seedings, at 2.55 million acres, are down 500,000 acres from last year. Area harvested totaled 2.44 million acres, down from 2.98 million acres harvested last year. Spring wheat production is estimated at 75.64 million bushels, down 27 percent from last year. Spring wheat yield, at 31.0 bushels per acre, is down 4.0 bushels per acre from last year. **Durum wheat** seedings, at 620,000 acres, are up 185,000 acres from last year. Area harvested totaled 605,000 acres, up from 430,000 acres harvested last year. Durum wheat production is estimated at 18.76 million bushels, up 41 percent from last year. Durum wheat yield, at 31.0 bushels per acre, is unchanged from last year.

All hay production for 2015 is estimated at 4.68 million tons, down 13 percent from the 2014 total. **Alfalfa hay** production was estimated at 3.40 million tons from 1.70 million acres harvested, down 485,000 tons from 2014. Average yield for the 2015 crop was 2.00 tons per acre, 0.10 ton per acre below last year. **All other hay** production totaled 1.28 million tons from 800,000 acres harvested, down 216,000 tons from 2014. The average yield of 1.60 tons per acre was down 0.10 ton per acre from last year. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Montana were estimated at 100,000 acres, unchanged from 2014.

As of December 1, producers in Montana were storing 3.70 million tons of **all hay**, down 20 percent from the 4.60 million tons stored last year.

Montana **canola** growers planted 82,000 acres in 2015, up 19,000 acres from 2014. Harvested area totaled 78,000 acres, up 17,000 acres from last year. The 2015 canola yield was 1,160 pounds per acre, down 220 pounds per acre from a year ago. Canola production totaled 90.48 million pounds, up from 84.18 million pounds in 2014. Montana's **flaxseed** production in 2015 was 450,000 bushels, up from 425,000 bushels a year ago. Growers planted 31,000 acres and harvested 30,000 acres in 2015, compared with 28,000 acres planted and 25,000 acres harvested in 2014. The average yield for 2015 was 15.0 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels per acre from a year ago. Production of **safflower** in 2015 totaled 36.96 million pounds, compared with 42.42 million pounds in 2014. Planted acres were 50,000, down 4,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres were 44,000, compared with 50,500 acres in 2014. Safflower yield averaged 840 pounds per acre in 2015, unchanged from last year.

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The state's **sugarbeet** crop of 1.43 million tons for 2015 was virtually unchanged from 2014. Producers harvested 43,700 acres in 2015, down from 44,400 acres in 2014. Average yield was estimated at 32.8 tons per acre, 0.5 tons per acre above 2014.

Montana **potato** growers produced 3.49 million hundredweight of potatoes this year, down 4 percent from last year's crop. Average yield at 320 hundredweight per acre, was unchanged from last year's yield. Harvested area of 10,900 acres this year was 400 acres less than last year's harvested area.

Dry edible bean production was set at 634,000 hundredweight, 5 percent above the 2014 crop of 603,000 hundredweight. Average yield was estimated at 1,340 pounds per acre, 290 pounds below last year. Harvested area, at 47,300 acres, was 10,300 acres more than last year. **Pinto bean** production in 2015 was 86,000 hundredweight, down 33 percent from last year. Planted acreage was 4,400 acres, down 1,600 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 4,300 acres, is 1,500 acres below the previous year. The pinto bean yield was 2,000 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds per acre from last year. All **garbanzo bean** production, at 527,000 hundredweight, compared to 475,000 hundredweight in 2014. Planted area totaled 43,000 acres, up from 31,500 planted acres last year. Harvested area was 41,400 acres, compared with 31,200 acres last year. The yield was 1,270 pounds per acre, down 250 pounds per acre from last year.

Montana's 2015 **lentil** production was 2.44 million hundredweight, compared with 1.76 million hundredweight a year ago. Planted area was 235,000 acres, with harvested area at 222,000 acres, compared with last year's 130,000 acres planted and 119,000 acres harvested. Lentil yield for 2015 was 1,100 pounds per acre, down 380 pounds per acre from 2014. **Dry edible pea** production for 2015 in Montana was 7.98 million hundredweight, down 12 percent from a year ago. Dry pea yield for 2015 was 1,450 pounds per acre, down 350 pounds per acre from 2014. Planted and harvested acreages were 595,000 and 550,000 acres, respectively. Last year, growers planted 525,000 acres and harvested 504,000 acres of dry peas. **Austrian winter pea** production in 2015 was 53,000 hundredweight, down 31 percent from last year. Planted area was 15,000 acres, 3,000 acres above a year ago. Harvested acreage, at 5,000 acres, was down 2,000 acres from 2014. The yield was 1,050 pounds per acre in 2015, compared with 1,100 pounds per acre a year ago.

Winter wheat seedings last fall for the 2016 crop year are estimated at 2.25 million acres, down 4 percent from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production is estimated at 13.6 billion bushels, down slightly from the November forecast and down 4 percent from the 2014 estimate. The average yield in the United States is estimated at 168.4 bushels per acre. This is down 0.9 bushel from the November forecast and 2.6 bushels below the 2014 average yield of 171.0 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 80.7 million acres, up slightly from the November forecast but down 3 percent from the 2014 acreage. **Corn silage** production is estimated at 127 million tons for 2015, down less than 1 percent from 2014. The United States silage yield is estimated at 20.4 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from 2014. Area harvested for silage is estimated at 6.22 million acres, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Oats production in 2015 is estimated at 89.5 million bushels, up 27 percent from the revised 2014 total of 70.2 million bushels. Yield is estimated at 70.2 bushels per acre, up 2.3 bushels from the previous year, and represents a new record high for the United States. Harvested area, at 1.28 million acres, is 23 percent above the previous year.

Barley production is estimated at 214 million bushels, up 18 percent from the revised 2014 total. Average yield per acre, at 68.9 bushels, is down 3.8 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 3.56 million acres in 2015, up 17 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 3.11 million acres, is up 25 percent from 2014.

All wheat production totaled 2.05 billion bushels in 2015, up 1 percent from the 2014 total. Area harvested for grain totaled 47.1 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous year. The United States yield is estimated at 43.6 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from the previous year.

Winter wheat production for 2015 totaled 1.37 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the 2014 total. The United States yield, at 42.5 bushels per acre, is down 0.1 bushel from 2014. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 32.3 million acres, down slightly from the previous year.

Other spring wheat production for 2015 is estimated at 599 million bushels, up less than 1 percent from the 2014 total. Harvested area totaled 12.9 million acres, up 2 percent from 2014. The United States yield is estimated at 46.3 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushel below the 2014 average yield. Of the total production, 564 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 2 percent from 2014.

Durum wheat production for 2015 is estimated at 82.5 million bushels, up 53 percent from the 2014 total. Grain area harvested totaled 1.90 million acres, up 41 percent from the previous year. The United States yield is estimated at 43.5 bushels per acre, up 3.3 bushels from 2014.

Production of **all dry hay** for 2015 is estimated at 134 million tons, down 6 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 4 percent from the revised 2014 total. Area harvested is estimated at 54.4 million acres, down 4 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 5 percent from 2014. The average yield, at 2.47 tons per acre, is down 0.05 ton from the October 1 forecast but up 0.02 ton from the previous year. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in 2015 is estimated at 59.0 million tons, down 7 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 4 percent from the revised 2014 total. Harvested area, at 17.8 million acres, is down 3 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 3 percent below the previous year. Average yield is estimated at 3.32 tons per acre, 0.13 ton below the October 1 forecast and down 0.02 ton from 2014. Production of **all other hay** in 2015 totaled 75.4 million tons, down 5 percent from the October forecast and down 4 percent from the revised 2014 total. Harvested area, at 36.7 million acres, is down 4 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 5 percent from last year. Average yield is estimated at a record 2.06 tons per acre, down 0.01 ton from the October 1 forecast but up 0.03 ton from the previous year. Growers seeded 2.54 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2015, down slightly from 2014.

All hay stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2015 totaled 95.0 million tons, up 3 percent from the previous December. Disappearance from May 1, 2015 - December 1, 2015 totaled 63.9 million tons, compared with 67.0 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Canola production in 2015 is estimated at a record 2.88 billion pounds, up 14 percent from 2014 but down 7 percent from the October forecast. The average yield, at 1,677 pounds per acre, is up 63 pounds from the 2014 average yield but down 114 pounds from October. Planted area is estimated at a record high 1.78 million acres, 4 percent above the previous year's acreage. Harvested area, at 1.71 million acres, is up 10 percent from 2014 and is the second highest on record. Production of **flaxseed** in 2015 totaled 10.1 million bushels, up 59 percent from last year. Harvested area totaled 456,000 acres in 2015, up 51 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage in North Dakota, the largest flaxseed-producing State, is estimated at 405,000 acres, up 50 percent from 2014. The average United States yield for 2014, at 22.1 bushels per acre, is up 1.0 bushel from 2014 and is the second highest yield on record. Production of **safflower** in 2015, at 214 million pounds, is up 3 percent from 2014 and is the highest since 2010. Growers planted 168,200 acres in 2015, a decrease of 7 percent from 2014. Harvested area, at 159,100 acres, is also down 7 percent from the previous year. Average yield, at 1,347 pounds per acre, increased 121 pounds from 2014 and is the highest since 2009.

Sugarbeets production for 2015 is estimated at 35.3 million tons, up slightly from the November 1 forecast and up 13 percent from last year revised production. Growers in the 10 major sugarbeet-producing States planted 1.16 million acres, down slightly from last year revised area. Harvested area, at 1.14 million acres, is down slightly from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 30.8 tons per acre, is unchanged from the November forecast but 3.5 tons above last year.

Production of **fall potatoes** for 2015 is estimated at 405 million cwt, down 1 percent from the November forecast but up slightly from last year. Area harvested, at 937,700 acres, is down 1 percent from the November forecast but up 1 percent from last year. The average yield is estimated at 431 cwt per acre, down 1 cwt from the November forecast and down 3 cwt from last year's yield.

Production of **dry edible beans** is estimated at 30.1 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.76 million acres, up 4 percent from 2014. Harvested area is estimated at 1.71 million acres, also up 4 percent from a year ago. The average United States yield is estimated at 1,760 pounds per acre, an increase of 6 pounds from last year.

Production of **lentils** is estimated at 5.28 million cwt, up 53 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 476,000 acres, up 84 percent from the previous year. Average yield is 1,108 pounds per acre, down 223 pounds from 2014. Planted and harvested area are the second highest on record, behind only the 2010 season. Production of **dry edible peas** is estimated at 18.3 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year. Planted area, at 1,143,000 acres, and harvested area, at 1,083,500 acres, increased by 22 percent and 20 percent, respectively. Planted and harvested acreage and production are at record high levels. Average yield is 1,687 pounds per acre, down 220 pounds from 2014. Planted area of **Austrian winter peas** is estimated at 34,000 acres, up 42 percent from a year ago. Area harvested is expected to total 21,000 acres, up 25 percent from 2014. Yield, at 1,238 pounds per acre, is down 143 pounds from a year ago. Production increased 12 percent from last season.

Winter **Winter wheat** seeded area for 2016 is expected to total 36.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 2015. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 26.5 million; Soft Red Winter, 6.72 million; and White Winter, 3.43 million.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2015 Summary* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.

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