



NEWS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2016

Contact: Eric Sommer
(800) 835-2612

CROP PRODUCTION – MAY 2016

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Montana, based on conditions as of May 1, 2016, is forecast at 86.10 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is five percent below last year's production of 91.02 million bushels and six percent below the 91.84 million bushel crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, forecast at 2.10 million acres, is 120,000 acres less than a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 41.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's yield.

As of May 1, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 15 percent excellent, compared with 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 24 percent excellent last year.

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches as of May 1, 2016 totaled 1.03 million tons, down 21 percent from stocks of 1.30 million tons on hand last year. Hay production for 2015 was 4.68 million tons, 13 percent lower than 2014 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2015 to May 1, 2016 was 2.68 million tons, compared with 3.30 million tons the same period a year earlier.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.43 billion bushels, up 4 percent from 2015. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 47.8 bushels per acre, up 5.3 bushels from last year. If realized, this will equal the record yield set in 1999.

Hard Red Winter production, at 863 million bushels, is up 4 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 357 million bushels, is down nearly 1 percent from 2015. White Winter, at 208 million bushels, is up 13 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 17.4 million bushels are Hard White and 191 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on United States farms as of May 1, 2016 totaled 25.1 million tons, up 3 percent from a year ago. Disappearance between December 1, 2015 and May 1, 2016 totaled 69.9 million tons, compared with 67.5 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

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