



# 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 – OCTOBER 2016

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **canola** production in Montana is forecast at 91.50 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 2015 crop, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Acreage harvested is expected to total 61,000 acres, down 16,000 acres from the 77,000 harvested last year. Canola yield is forecast at 1,500 pounds per acre, up from 1,220 pounds per acre last year.

**Alfalfa hay** production in Montana is forecast to total 3.57 million tons this year, up from the 3.40 million tons produced in 2015. Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.70 million acres of alfalfa hay this year, unchanged from 2015. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 2.10 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 2.00 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 2.10 tons per acre. Producers expect to harvest 950,000 acres of **other hay** in 2016, up 150,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.71 million tons, up 34 percent from 1.28 million tons a year ago. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.80 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 1.60 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast 1.50 tons per acre.

**Sugarbeet** production in Montana is forecast at 1.43 million tons, down 1 percent from the 1.44 million tons produced in 2015. Growers expect to harvest 45,200 acres this year compared with 43,700 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 31.7 tons per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but down from last year's yield of 33.0 tons per acre. As of October 2, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Harvest of sugarbeets was estimated at 22 percent complete, compared with 19 percent last year and the 5 year average of 12 percent.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The first production forecast for **Canola** for 2016 is 2.99 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the revised 2015 production of 2.88 billion pounds. If realized, this will be the largest production on record for the United States. Area planted, at 1.71 million acres, is up less than 1 percent from the June estimate but down 4 percent from last year. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.69 million acres, up 2 percent from June but down 1 percent from 2015. Planted area for the Nation is the fourth largest on record, and harvested area for the Nation will be the third largest on record, if realized. The October yield forecast, at 1,768 pounds per acre, is 88 pounds above last year's yield and will be the second highest on record, if realized.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2016 is forecast at 62.8 million tons, up 7 percent from 2015. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.48 tons per acre, up 0.16 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.1 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but up 2 percent from 2015.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 78.8 million tons, up 4 percent from 2015. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.07 tons per acre, up 0.01 ton from last year. If realized, the 2016 average yield will be a record high for the United States and production will be the third highest on record behind only 2004 and 2003. Harvested area is forecast at 38.1 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but up 4 percent from 2015.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2016 crop year is forecast at 36.3 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 3 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.14 million acres, down slightly from the previous forecast and last year. Expected yield is forecast at 31.9 tons per acre, an increase of 0.6 ton from the previous forecast and an increase of 1.0 ton from last year.

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

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