



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
November 9, 2016

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CROP PRODUCTION – NOVEMBER 2016

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on November 1 conditions, **sugarbeet** production in Montana is forecast at 1.59 million tons, up 10 percent from the 1.44 million tons produced in 2015, according to the November 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Growers expect to harvest 45,300 acres this year, compared with 43,700 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 35.1 tons per acre, up 3.4 tons per acre from the October 1 forecast and up from last year's yield of 33.0 tons per acre. If realized, this would be a record sugarbeet yield for Montana, above the previous record of 33.0 tons per acre set in 2015. As of October 30, Montana's sugarbeet harvest was estimated at 61 percent complete, compared with 82 percent last year and the 5-year average of 91 percent.

Lentil production for 2016 is estimated to be 7.21 million hundredweight, up 195 percent from last year. Area harvested is forecast at 515,000 acres, up 293,000 acres from 2015. Yield is estimated to be 1,400 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds per acre from last year.

Montana **dry edible pea** production, forecast at 11.12 million hundredweight, is up 39 percent from last year. Acres harvested are estimated at 585,000, up 6 percent from 2015. Yield is expected to be 1,900 pounds per acre, up 450 pounds per acre from last year.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana for 2016 is estimated to be 70,000 hundredweight, up 32 percent from last year. Acres harvested in 2016 are estimated at 7,000, up 2,000 acres from last year. Yield, at 1,000 pounds per acre, is down 50 pounds per acre from last year.

Fall potato growers in Montana produced an estimated 3.81 million hundredweight of potatoes this year, up 7 percent from last year's crop. Average yield, at 340 hundredweight per acre, increased 15 hundredweight per acre from last year. The harvested area, estimated at 11,200 acres, is up from the 10,900 acres harvested last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2016 crop year is forecast at 36.6 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 4 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.13 million acres, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 2 percent from last year. Expected yield is forecast at 32.5 tons per acre, an increase of 0.6 ton from the previous forecast and an increase of 1.6 tons from last year.

Production of **lentils** is forecast at 12.4 million cwt, up 136 percent from last year and at record high levels for the United States, and Montana. Planted area, at 935,000 acres, is up 90 percent from a year ago, while harvested acreage, at 917,000 acres, is up 93 percent from 2015. If realized, planted and harvested area will be record highs in Montana, North Dakota, and the United States. Average yield is expected to be 1,356 pounds per acre, up 248 pounds from 2015. If realized, Idaho's yield will be a record high.

Production of **dry edible peas** is forecast at 27.1 million cwt, up 48 percent from last year. Planted area, at 1.38 million acres, and harvested area, at 1.33 million acres, increased by 21 percent and 23 percent, respectively. If realized, planted acreage, harvested acreage, and production will all be at record high levels. Montana growers anticipate record high acreage and production, while North Dakota's production is at a record level. Average United States yield is expected to be 2,029 pounds per acre, up 342 pounds from 2015. If realized, Idaho's yield, at 2,500 pounds per acre, will be a record high.

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United States production of **Austrian winter peas** is forecast at 444,000 cwt, up 71 percent from last year. If realized, production in Oregon this will be a record high level. Planted area of Austrian winter peas is estimated at 38,000 acres, up 12 percent from a year ago. Area harvested is expected to total 27,300 acres, up 30 percent from 2015. United States yield, at 1,626 pounds per acre, is up 388 pounds from a year ago. In both Idaho and Oregon, producers reported record high yields.

Production of **fall potatoes** for 2016 is forecast at 405 million cwt, up slightly from last year. Area harvested, at 899,000 acres, is down 4 percent from the previous year. The average yield forecast, at 451 cwt per acre, is up 18 cwt from last year's yield and if realized, will be a record high.

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