



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, 2016

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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2016

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Montana growers intend to plant 95,000 acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2016, down 10,000 acres, or 10 percent from last year's plantings, according to the March 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The area expected to be seeded to **oats**, at 55,000 acres, is up 5,000 acres from a year ago. Growers intend to plant 1.01 million acres of **barley** in 2016, up 40,000 acres from last year's actual plantings. **All wheat** acreage is expected to total 4.93 million acres for 2016. **Winter wheat** seeded last fall for harvest in 2016 is estimated at 2.20 million acres, down 150,000 acres from the 2015 crop. Growers intend to seed 630,000 acres of **durum wheat** this year, up 10,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to seed 2.10 million acres of **spring wheat** this year, down 450,000 acres from last year. **Hay** producers in the State intend to harvest 2.50 million acres this year. This is unchanged from the acreage cut for hay in 2015. Montana **canola** producers intend to plant 75,000 acres in 2016, down 7,000 acres from 2015. **Flaxseed** producers intend to plant 38,000 acres in 2016, up 7,000 acres from last year. The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to be down 2,100 acres from last year's actual plantings to 42,000 acres. **Dry edible bean** acreage is expected to total 80,000 acres, up 63 percent from the 49,000 acres planted in 2015. All **garbanzo beans** (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 68,000 acres, up 25,000 acres from 2015. **Lentil** acres planted for 2016 is expected to total 500,000 acres, up 265,000 acres from last year. All **dry edible pea** area planted is expected to total 580,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from last year. **Austrian winter pea** area planted is expected to total 11,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from 2015.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2016 is estimated at 93.6 million acres, up 6 percent from last year. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 2013, and will be the third highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944.

Area seeded to **oats** for the 2016 crop year is estimated at 2.75 million acres, down 11 percent from 2015. If realized, United States planted acres will be the third lowest on record.

Producers intend to seed 3.14 million acres of **barley** for the 2016 crop year, down 12 percent from the previous year. If realized, this will be the fourth smallest seeded area on record.

All wheat planted area for 2016 is estimated at 49.6 million acres, down 9 percent from 2015. The 2016 **winter wheat** planted area, at 36.2 million acres, is down 8 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 26.2 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.60 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.37 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to **other spring wheat** for 2016 is estimated at 11.3 million acres, down 14 percent from 2015. Of this total, about 10.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended **Durum** planted area for 2016 is estimated at 2.00 million acres, up 3 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 54.3 million acres of **all hay** in 2016, down slightly from 2015.

Canola producers intend to plant 1.75 million acres in 2016, down 2 percent from 2015. Despite the decline, planted area in the United States will be the third largest on record, if realized.

Producers intend to plant 390,000 acres of **flaxseed** in 2016, down 73,000 acres, or 16 percent less than was planted in 2015.

Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2016 crop year is estimated at 1.16 million acres, virtually unchanged from 2015.

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Area planted to **dry beans** in 2016 is expected to be 1.56 million acres, down 12 percent from the previous season. Expected area planted for **all chickpeas** is 246,000 acres, up 19 percent from last season. **Small chickpeas**, at 83,000 acres, is 15 percent above 2015, while **large chickpeas**, at 163,000 acres, increased 20 percent from the previous year. If realized, both small and all chickpea acreage will be a record high. Strong prices and demand have encouraged farmers to increase chickpea area.

Area planted to **lentils** for the 2016 crop year is expected to total 850,000 acres, up 72 percent from 2015.

Area planted to **dry edible peas** for the 2016 crop year is expected to total 1.42 million acres, up 24 percent from 2015.

Intended planted area for **Austrian winter peas** in 2016 is estimated at 31,000 acres, down 9 percent from 2015.

For a full copy of the *Prospective Plantings* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.