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
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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2017

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Montana growers intend to plant 120,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2017, up 5,000 acres, or 4 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 down 5,000 acres from a year ago. Growers intend to plant 690,000 acres of barley in 2017, down 300,000 acres from last year's actual plantings, and the lowest plantings since 1953. All wheat acreage is expected to total 5.19 million acres for 2017. Winter wheat seeded last fall for harvest in 2017 is estimated at 1.90 million acres, down 350,000 acres from the 2016 crop, and the lowest plantings since 2004. Growers intend to seed 690,000 acres of Durum wheat this year, down 90,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to seed 2.60 million acres of spring wheat this year, up 450,000 acres from last year. Hay producers in the State intend to harvest 2.60 million acres this year. This is down 50,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2016. Montana canola producers intend to plant a record high 110,000 acres in 2017, up 48,000 acres from 2016. Flaxseed producers intend to plant 25,000 acres in 2017, down 4,000 acres from last year. The area planted to sugar beets is expected to be down 600 acres from last year's actual plantings to 45,000 acres. Dry edible bean acreage is expected to total 210,000 acres, up 104 percent from the 103,000 acres planted in 2016. All garbanzo beans (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 198,000 acres, up 99,000 acres from 2016. Lentil acres planted for 2017 are expected to total 640,000 acres, up 120,000 acres from last year. All dry edible pea area planted is expected to total 460,000 acres, down 150,000 acres from last year. Austrian winter pea area planted is expected to total 15,000 acres, unchanged from 2016.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2017 is estimated at 90.0 million acres, down 4 percent or 4.0 million acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be down or unchanged in 38 of the 48 estimating States. Area seeded to oats for the 2017 crop year is estimated at 2.70 million acres, down 5 percent from 2016. If realized, United States planted area will be the second lowest on record.

Producers intend to seed 2.55 million acres of barley for the 2017 crop year, down 17 percent from the previous year. If realized, seeded area for barley will be the lowest on record.

All wheat planted area for 2017 is estimated at 46.1 million acres, down 8 percent from 2016. This represents the lowest total planted area for the United States since records began in 1919. The 2017 winter wheat planted area, at 32.7 million acres, is down 9 percent from last year but up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 23.8 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 5.53 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.38 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2017 is estimated at 11.3 million acres, down 3 percent from 2016. Of this total, about 10.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2017 is estimated at 2.00 million acres, down 17 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 52.8 million acres of all hay in 2017, down 1 percent from 2016. If realized, this will represent the lowest total hay harvested area since 1908.

Canola producers intend to plant a record high 1.93 million acres in 2017, up 12 percent from 2016.

Producers intend to plant 313,000 acres of flaxseed in 2017, down 61,000 acres, or 16 percent less than was planted in 2016.

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Area expected to be planted to sugarbeets for the 2017 crop year is estimated at 1.13 million acres, down 2 percent from 2016. Intended plantings are below the previous year in eight of the 11 estimating States.

Area planted to dry beans in 2017 is expected to be 1.87 million acres, up 12 percent from the previous season. Expected area planted for all chickpeas is 498,000 acres, up 53 percent from last season. Small chickpeas, at 155,000 acres, is 36 percent above 2016, while large chickpeas, at 343,000 acres, increased 62 percent from the previous year. If realized, small, large, and all chickpea acreage will be a record high.

Area planted to lentils for the 2017 crop year is expected to total 1.06 million acres, up 13 percent from 2016. If realized, planted area will be a record high.

Area planted to dry edible peas for the 2017 crop year is expected to total 1.14 million acres, down 17 percent from last year’s record high planted area.

Intended planted area for Austrian winter peas in 2017 is estimated at 26,000 acres, down 32 percent from 2016.

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