



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## CROP PRODUCTION – MAY 2018

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

**Winter wheat** production in Montana, based on conditions as of May 1, 2018, is forecast at 75.95 million bushels, according to the May 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is 14 percent above last year's production of 66.78 million bushels, but 28 percent below the 105.35 million bushel crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, forecast at 1.55 million acres, is 40,000 acres less than a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 49.0 bushels per acre, up 7.0 bushels per acre from last year's yield.

As of April 29, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 15 percent good, and 43 percent excellent, compared with 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 15 percent excellent last year.

**Hay stocks** on Montana farms and ranches as of May 1, 2018 totaled 500,000 tons, down 43 percent from stocks of 870,000 tons on hand last year. Hay production for 2017 was 4.88 million tons, 5 percent lower than 2016 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018 was 3.20 million tons, compared with 3.23 million tons the same period a year earlier.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.19 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 2017. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 48.1 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from last year's average yield of 50.2 bushels per acre.

Hard Red Winter production, at 647 million bushels, is down 14 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 315 million bushels, is up 8 percent from 2017. White Winter, at 229 million bushels, is up 1 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 21.2 million bushels are Hard White and 208 million bushels are Soft White.

**All hay stored** on United States farms May 1, 2018 totaled 15.7 million tons, down 36 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2017 - May 1, 2018 totaled 70.6 million tons, compared with 71.4 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

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