



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 – JULY 2018

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Montana, based on conditions as of July 1, 2018, is forecast at 72.50 million bushels, according to the July 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down 3 percent from the June 1 forecast, but 9 percent above the 66.78 million bushel crop produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 1.45 million acres, is 140,000 acres less than the 1.59 million acres harvested in 2017. As of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 50.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above the June 1 forecast and 8.0 bushels above last year's final yield. If realized, this would be a record winter wheat yield for Montana, 1.0 bushel above the previous record of 49.0 bushels per acre set in 2010 and 2016.

As of July 1, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 24 percent good, and 45 percent excellent, compared with 4 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 51 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 8 percent excellent last year. Winter wheat turning color was at 19 percent complete, compared with 31 percent last year and the 5-year average of 30 percent.

Durum wheat production in Montana is forecast at 23.36 million bushels, up 86 percent from the 12.56 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 730,000 acres, is 55,000 acres less than the 785,000 acres harvested in 2017. As of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 32.0 bushels per acre, 16.0 bushels above last year's final yield.

As of July 1, Montana's Durum wheat crop condition was rated 3 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 7 percent excellent, compared with 19 percent very poor, 35 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 17 percent good, and 1 percent excellent last year. Durum wheat headed was at 25 percent complete, compared to 27 percent last year and the 5-year average of 15 percent.

Spring wheat production in Montana is forecast at 94.05 million bushels, up 96 percent from the 48.09 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.85 million acres, is 560,000 acres more than the 2.29 million acres harvested in 2017. As of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 33.0 bushels per acre, 12.0 bushels above last year's final yield.

As of July 1, Montana's spring wheat crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 9 percent excellent, compared with 19 percent very poor, 32 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 5 percent good, and 3 percent excellent last year. Spring wheat headed was at 32 percent complete, compared to 32 percent last year and the 5-year average of 33 percent.

Barley production is forecast at 34.72 million bushels, up 20 percent from the 2017 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 560,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from the 565,000 acres harvested last year. Barley yield is forecast at 62.0 bushels per acre, 11.0 bushels per acre above last year, and if realized, would equal the record high yield set in 2010.

As of July 1, Montana's barley crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 24 percent excellent, compared with 3 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 10 percent excellent last year. Barley headed was at 28 percent complete, compared to 25 percent last year and the 5-year average of 45 percent.

Oat production is forecast at 1.16 million bushels, up 37 percent from the 2017 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 21,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from the 18,000 harvested last year. Oat yield is forecast at 55.0 bushels per acre, 8.0 bushels per acre above last year.

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As of July 1, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 23 percent excellent, compared with 14 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 17 percent good, and 4 percent excellent last year. Oats headed was at 19 percent complete, compared to 9 percent last year and the 5-year average of 27 percent.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.19 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the June 1 forecast and down 6 percent from 2017. As of July 1, the United States yield is forecast at 48.0 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushel from last month and down 2.2 bushels from last year's average yield of 50.2 bushels per acre. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 24.8 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 29, 2018, but down 2 percent from last year.

Hard Red Winter production, at 657 million bushels, is up 1 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 303 million bushels, is down 4 percent from the June forecast. White Winter, at 232 million bushels, is up less than 1 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 21.1 million bushels are Hard White and 211 million bushels are Soft White.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 74.9 million bushels, up 36 percent from 2017. The United States yield is forecast at 40.7 bushels per acre, up 15.0 bushels from last year. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 1.84 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 29, 2018, but 14 percent below 2017.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 614 million bushels, up 48 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain or seed is expected to total 12.9 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 29, 2018, but 27 percent above 2017. The United States yield is forecast at a record high 47.6 bushels per acre, up 6.6 bushels from last year. Of the total production, 584 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 52 percent from last year.

Barley production is forecast at 155 million bushels, up 9 percent from 2017. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 75.6 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from last year. Record high yields are forecast in Minnesota and Montana. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.05 million acres, is unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 29, 2018, but up 5 percent from 2017.

Oat production is forecast at 66.4 million bushels, up 34 percent from 2017. Growers expect to harvest 1.01 million acres for grain or seed, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 29, 2018, but up 26 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 65.8 bushels per acre, up 4.1 bushels from 2017.

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