



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



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Contact: Eric Sommer
(800) 835-2612

CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2018

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on August 1 conditions, **oat** production in Montana is forecast at 1.26 million bushels, according to the August 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is up 9 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 49 percent from the 2017 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 21,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from the 18,000 acres harvested last year. Oat yield is forecast at 60.0 bushels per acre, up 5.0 bushels from the July 1 forecast and up 13.0 bushels from last year. As of July 29, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 1 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Oats turning color were at 54 percent complete, compared with 54 percent last year and the 5-year average of 57 percent.

Barley production is forecast at 32.48 million bushels, down 6 percent from the July 1 forecast, but up 13 percent from last year's crop. The area for harvest in 2018, at 560,000 acres, is down 5,000 acres from the 565,000 acres harvested last year. Barley yield is forecast at 58.0 bushels per acre, down 4.0 bushels from July 1, but 7.0 bushels above last year. As of July 29, the barley crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Barley harvest was 1 percent complete, compared with 5 percent last year and the 5-year average of 6 percent.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 75.40 million bushels, up 4 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 13 percent from the 66.78 million bushels 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 August 1, the average yield is forecast at 52.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from the July 1 forecast and 10.0 bushels above last year's final yield. If realized, this would be a record winter wheat yield for Montana, 3.0 bushels above the previous record of 49.0 bushels per acre set in 2010 and 2016. As of July 29, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 41 percent excellent. Winter wheat harvest was 19 percent complete, compared with 61 percent last year and the 5-year average of 37 percent.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 21.90 million bushels, down 6 percent from the July 1 forecast, but up 74 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 August 1, the average yield is forecast at 30.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels below the July 1 forecast, but 14.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of July 29, the Durum wheat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Durum wheat turning color was at 56 percent complete, compared to 40 percent last year and the 5-year average of 36 percent.

Spring wheat production in Montana is forecast at 96.90 million bushels, up 3 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 101 percent from the 48.09 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.85 million acres, is up 560,000 acres from the 2.29 million acres harvested in 2017. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 34.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel above the July 1 forecast and 13.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of July 29, the spring wheat crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Spring wheat turning color was at 67 percent complete, compared with 49 percent last year and the 5-year average of 55 percent.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.80 million acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, up 200,000 acres from 2017. They also expect to harvest 900,000 acres of **other hay** in 2018, down 50,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 4.14 million tons, up 23 percent from 3.36 million tons produced in 2017. Other hay production is forecast at 1.62 million tons, up 7 percent from 1.52 million tons a year ago. Yields are expected to average 2.30 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.80 tons per acre for other hay, compared to last year's yields of 2.10 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.60 tons per acre for other hay.

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Dry bean production for 2018 is forecast at 5.16 million hundredweight, up 99 percent from the 2.59 million hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,500 pounds per acre, up from 1,000 pounds per acre last year. Growers expect to harvest 344,000 acres this year, up 84,000 acres from 260,000 acres last year. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 1.42 million tons, up 2 percent from 1.40 million tons produced in 2017. Growers expect to harvest 42,600 acres this year compared with 42,700 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 33.3 tons per acre, up from 32.7 tons per acre a year ago.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Oats production is forecast at 65.7 million bushels, down 1 percent from the July forecast but up 33 percent from 2017. Growers expect to harvest 1.01 million acres for grain or seed, unchanged from July but up 26 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 65.1 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from the July forecast but 3.4 bushels above the 2017 average yield.

Barley production is forecast at 156 million bushels, up 1 percent from the July forecast and up 10 percent from 2017. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 76.3 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushel from the previous forecast and up 3.7 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.05 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 5 percent from 2017.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.19 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the July forecast and down 6 percent from 2017. As of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 47.9 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month and down 2.3 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, down slightly from last month and down 2 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 661 million bushels, is up 1 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 292 million bushels, is down 4 percent from the July forecast. White Winter, at 236 million bushels, is up 2 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 21.0 million bushels are Hard White and 215 million bushels are Soft White.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 73.4 million bushels, down 2 percent from the July forecast but up 34 percent from 2017. The United States yield is forecast at 39.9 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from the July forecast but up 14.2 bushels from last year. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 1.84 million acres, unchanged from last month, but 14 percent below 2017.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 614 million bushels, up slightly from the July forecast and up 48 percent from last year. If realized, this represents the third highest production on record. Area harvested for grain or seed is expected to total 12.9 million acres, unchanged from last month, but 27 percent above 2017. The United States yield is forecast at a record high 47.6 bushels per acre, unchanged from the July forecast, but up 6.6 bushels from last year. Of the total production, 583 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 51 percent from last year.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2018 is forecast at 57.8 million tons, up 5 percent from 2017. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.33 tons per acre, up 0.01 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 17.4 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast, but up 5 percent from 2017.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 70.7 million tons, down 7 percent from 2017. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.88 tons per acre, down 0.17 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 37.7 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast, but up 1 percent from 2017.

Production of **dry edible beans** is forecast at 35.9 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from last year. If realized, production will exceed last year's record high. Planted area is estimated at 2.05 million acres, down 2 percent from 2017. Harvested area is forecast at 1.99 million acres, 1 percent below the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,809 pounds per acre, an increase of 28 pounds from last season.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2018 crop year is forecast at 35.3 million tons, down slightly from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.08 million acres, down 3 percent from 2017. Expected yield is forecast at 32.5 tons per acre, an increase of 0.8 ton from last year.

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