



# 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 – OCTOBER 2018

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **canola** production in Montana is forecast at 191.40 million pounds, up 61 percent from the 2017 crop, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Acreage harvested is expected to total 116,000 acres, down 21,000 acres from the 137,000 harvested last year. Canola yield is forecast at 1,650 pounds per acre, up from 870 pounds per acre last year.

**Alfalfa hay** production in Montana is forecast at 4.32 million tons, up from the 3.36 million tons produced in 2017. Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.80 million acres of alfalfa hay this year, up 200,000 acres from 2017. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 2.40 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 2.10 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 2.30 tons per acre. Producers expect to harvest 900,000 acres of **other hay** in 2018, down 50,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.71 million tons, up 13 percent from the 1.52 million tons a year ago. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.90 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 1.60 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 1.80 tons per acre.

**Sugarbeet** production in Montana is forecast at 1.42 million tons, up 2 percent from the 1.40 million tons produced in 2017. Growers expect to harvest 42,700 acres this year, unchanged from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 33.2 tons per acre, down 1.1 tons per acre from the September 1 forecast but up from last year's yield of 32.7 tons per acre. As of September 30, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Harvest of sugarbeets was estimated at 16 percent complete.

**Dry bean** production for 2018 is forecast at 5.75 million hundredweight, up 121 percent from the 2.59 million hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,500 pounds per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast, but up from 500 pounds per acre last year. Growers expect to harvest 383,000 acres this year, up 123,000 acres from the 260,000 acres harvested last year. As of September 30, Montana's dry bean harvest was estimated to be 89 percent complete.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The first **canola** production forecast for 2018 is 3.62 billion pounds, up 16 percent from the 2017 production of 3.12 billion pounds. If realized, this will be the largest production on record for the United States. Area planted, at 1.99 million acres, is down 3 percent from the June estimate and down 4 percent from last year's record high area. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.94 million acres, down 4 percent from June and down 3 percent from 2017. If realized, harvested area for the Nation will be the second largest on record. The October yield forecast, at a record high 1,864 pounds per acre, is 306 pounds above last year's yield.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2018 is forecast at 59.5 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 8 percent from 2017. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.10 ton from the August forecast and up 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 17.4 million acres up 5 percent from 2017.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 74.9 million tons, up 6 percent from the August forecast but down 2 percent from 2017. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 1.98 tons per acre, up 0.10 ton from the August forecast but down 0.07 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 37.7 million acres up 1 percent from 2017.

Production of **sugarbeets**, for the 2018 crop year, is forecast at 35.2 million tons, down slightly from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.10 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Expected yield is forecast at 32.0 tons per acre, an increase of 0.3 ton from last year.

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United States **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 37.8 million cwt for 2018, up 6 percent from last year. If realized, this will be a record high production. Planted area is estimated at 2.08 million acres, down 1 percent from 2017. Harvested area is forecast at 2.01 million acres, down less than 1 percent from the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,884 pounds per acre, an increase of 103 pounds from 2017.

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