



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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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY – 2017

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

The 2017 **corn** for grain crop is estimated at 4.55 million bushels, 17 percent below last year's production of 5.50 million bushels, according to the December 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The average yield of 70.0 bushels per acre is 30.0 bushels per acre below the yield realized last year. Area harvested for grain in 2017, at 65,000 acres, is 10,000 acres above last year. Acreage cut for corn silage is estimated at 25,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from last year, with production estimated at 500,000 tons, compared with 1.21 million tons produced last year.

Oat seedings in Montana totaled 70,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 18,000 acres for grain or seed, down 10,000 acres from 2016. Oat production totaled 846,000 bushels in 2017, down 36 percent from last year. Oat yield is 47.0 bushels per acre in 2017, unchanged from the previous year.

Montana's **barley** seeded area, at 770,000 acres, is down 220,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 565,000 acres, is down 215,000 acres from 2016. Barley yield, at 51.0 bushels per acre, is down 9.0 bushels per acre from last year. Barley production in 2017 is estimated at 28.82 million bushels, down 38 percent from the previous year.

All wheat production in Montana, estimated at 127.43 million bushels, is down 40 percent from 2016. All wheat yield is 27.3 bushels per acre, down 15.1 bushels per acre from a year ago. **Winter wheat** producers seeded 1.75 million acres in the fall of 2016 for harvest in 2017, down from 2.25 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Acreage harvested for grain decreased 560,000 acres from last year to 1.59 million acres in 2017. Winter wheat production is estimated at 66.78 million bushels, down 37 percent from last year. Winter wheat yield, at 42.0 bushels per acre, is down 7.0 bushels per acre from last year. **Spring wheat** seedings, at 2.50 million acres, are up 400,000 acres from last year. Area harvested totaled 2.29 million acres, up from 2.06 million acres harvested last year. Spring wheat production is estimated at 48.09 million bushels, down 35 percent from last year. Spring wheat yield, at 21.0 bushels per acre, is down 15.0 bushels per acre from last year, and is the lowest yield since 20.5 bushels per acre in 1979. **Durum wheat** seedings, at 890,000 acres, are up 110,000 acres from last year. Area harvested totaled 785,000 acres, up from 765,000 acres harvested last year. Durum wheat production is estimated at 12.56 million bushels, down 60 percent from last year. Durum wheat yield, at 16.0 bushels per acre, is down 25.0 bushels per acre from last year, and is the lowest yield since 15.0 bushels per acre in 1957.

All hay production for 2017 is estimated at 4.88 million tons, down 5 percent from the 2016 total. **Alfalfa hay** production is estimated at 3.36 million tons from 1.60 million acres harvested, down 240,000 tons from 2016. Average yield for the 2017 crop is 2.10 tons per acre, 0.10 ton per acre above last year. **All other hay** production totaled 1.52 million tons from 950,000 acres harvested, down 10,000 tons from 2016. The average yield of 1.60 tons per acre is down 0.20 ton per acre from last year. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Montana are estimated at 100,000 acres, down 17 percent from 2016.

As of December 1, producers in Montana were storing 3.70 million tons of **all hay**, down 10 percent from the 4.10 million tons stored last year.

Montana **canola** growers planted 155,000 acres in 2017, up 93,000 acres from 2016. Harvested area totaled 137,000 acres, up 77,000 acres from last year. The 2017 canola yield is a record low 870 pounds per acre, down 800 pounds per acre from a year ago. Canola production totaled 119.19 million pounds, up from 100.20 million pounds in 2016. Montana's **flaxseed** production in 2017 is 342,000 bushels, down from 616,000 bushels a year ago. Growers planted 52,000 acres and harvested 38,000 acres in 2017, compared with 29,000 acres planted and 28,000 acres harvested in 2016. The average yield for 2017 is 9.0 bushels per acre, down 13.0 bushels per acre from a year ago. Production of **safflower** in 2017 totaled 17.08 million pounds, compared with 27.54 million pounds in 2016. Planted

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acres are 39,000, up 2,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are 28,000, compared with 34,000 acres in 2016. Safflower yield averaged 610 pounds per acre in 2017, down 200 pounds per acre from last year.

The state's **sugarbeet** crop of 1.40 million tons for 2017 is down 12 percent from the 1.59 million tons produced in 2016. Producers harvested 42,700 acres in 2017, down from 45,300 acres in 2016. Average yield is estimated at 32.7 tons per acre, 2.3 tons per acre below 2016.

Montana **potato** growers produced an estimated 3.74 million hundredweight of potatoes this year, up 1 percent from last year's crop. Average yield, at 340 hundredweight per acre, increased 5 hundredweight per acre from last year. The harvested area, estimated at 11,000 acres, is unchanged from last year.

Dry edible bean production is set at a record high 2.59 million hundredweight, 61 percent above the 2016 crop of 1.61 million hundredweight. Average yield is estimated at 1,000 pounds per acre, 620 pounds per acre below last year. Harvested area, at a record high 260,000 acres, is 160,500 acres more than last year. **Pinto bean** production in 2017 is 150,000 hundredweight, up 85 percent from last year. Planted acreage is 6,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 6,000 acres, is 2,500 acres above the previous year. The pinto bean yield is 2,500 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds per acre from last year. All **garbanzo bean** production, is 2.44 million hundredweight, compared to 1.53 million hundredweight in 2016. Planted area totaled 269,000 acres, up from 99,000 planted acres last year. Harvested area is 254,000 acres, compared with 96,000 acres last year. The yield is 960 pounds per acre, down 640 pounds per acre from last year.

Montana's 2017 **lentil** production is 4.36 million hundredweight, compared with 7.37 million hundredweight a year ago. Planted area is a record high 730,000 acres, with harvested area at a record high 670,000 acres, compared with last year's 520,000 acres planted and 505,000 acres harvested. Lentil yield for 2017 is 650 pounds per acre, down 810 pounds per acre from 2016, and the lowest yield since 600 pounds per acre in 2006. **Dry edible pea** production for 2017 in Montana is 3.85 million hundredweight, down 66 percent from a year ago. Dry pea yield for 2017 is 820 pounds per acre, down 1,130 pounds per acre from 2016, and is the lowest yield since 800 pounds per acre in 2002. Planted and harvested acreages are 525,000 and 470,000 acres, respectively. Last year, growers planted 610,000 acres and harvested 580,000 acres of dry peas. **Austrian winter pea** production in 2017 is 25,000 hundredweight, down 73 percent from last year. Planted area is 20,000 acres, up 5,000 from a year ago. Harvested acreage, at 4,000 acres, is down 3,000 acres from 2016. The yield is a record low 630 pounds per acre in 2017, compared with 1,300 pounds per acre a year ago.

Winter wheat seedings last fall for the 2018 crop year are estimated at 1.55 million acres, down 11 percent from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in 2017 was estimated at 14.6 billion bushels, down 4 percent from the 2016 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at a record high 176.6 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above the 2016 average yield of 174.6 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 82.7 million acres, down 5 percent from the 2016 estimate. **Corn silage** production was estimated at 128 million tons for 2017, up 2 percent from 2016. The United States silage yield was estimated at 19.9 tons per acre, down 0.4 ton from 2016. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.43 million acres, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Oat production in 2017 was estimated at 49.4 million bushels, down 24 percent from 2016. Yield was estimated at 61.7 bushels per acre, down 4.3 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 801,000 acres, was 18 percent below the previous year.

Barley production was estimated at 142 million bushels, down 29 percent from the 2016 total of 200 million bushels. Average yield per acre, at 72.6 bushels, was down 5.3 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.48 million acres in 2017, down 19 percent from 2016, and the lowest acreage planted on record since estimates began in 1866. Harvested area, at 1.95 million acres, was down 24 percent from 2016.

All wheat production totaled 1.74 billion bushels in 2017, down 25 percent from the 2016 total of 2.31 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 37.6 million acres, down 14 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 46.3 bushels per acre, down 6.4 bushels from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2016 by type are winter wheat, 1.27 billion bushels, down 24 percent; other spring wheat, 416 million bushels, down 22 percent; and Durum wheat, 54.9 million bushels, down 47 percent. **Winter wheat** production for 2017 totaled 1.27 billion bushels, down 24 percent from the 2016 total of 1.67 billion bushels. The United States yield, at 50.2 bushels per acre, was down 5.1 bushels from 2016. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 25.3 million acres, down 16 percent from the previous year. **Other spring wheat** production for 2017 was estimated at 416 million bushels, down 22 percent from the 2016 total of 532 million bushels. Harvested area totaled 10.2 million acres, down 10 percent from 2016. The United States yield was estimated at 41.0 bushels per acre, 6.3 bushels below 2016. **Durum wheat** production for 2017 was estimated at 54.9 million bushels, down 47 percent from the 2016 total of 104 million bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 2.14 million acres, down 9 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 25.7 bushels per acre, down 18.3 bushels from the 2016 record high yield.

Production of **all dry hay** for 2017 was estimated at 131 million tons, down 3 percent from the revised 2016 total. Area harvested was estimated at 53.8 million acres, up one percent from 2016. The average yield, at 2.44 tons per acre, was down 0.08 ton from the previous year. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in 2017 was estimated at 55.1 million tons, down 5 percent from the 2016 total. Harvested area, at 16.6 million acres, was 2 percent below the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 3.32 tons per acre, down 0.13 ton from 2016. Production of **all other hay** in 2017 totaled 76.4 million tons, down less than 1 percent from the revised 2016 total. Harvested area, at 37.2 million acres, was up 2 percent from the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 2.05 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton from the previous year's revised record high. Growers seeded 2.21 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2017, down 3 percent from 2016.

All hay stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2017 totaled 86.2 million tons, down 10 percent from the previous December. Disappearance from May 1, 2017 - December 1, 2017 totaled 69.6 million tons, compared with 64.3 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Canola production in 2017 was estimated at a record 3.12 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2016. The average yield, at 1,558 pounds per acre, was down 266 pounds from the 2016 average yield. Planted area was estimated at a record high 2.08 million acres, 21 percent above the previous year's acreage. Harvested area, at a record high 2.00 million acres, was up 18 percent from 2016. Production of **flaxseed** in 2017 totaled 3.84 million bushels, down 56 percent from the previous year. Harvested area totaled 272,000 acres in 2017, down 26 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage in North Dakota, the largest flaxseed-producing State, was estimated at 229,000 acres, down 30 percent from 2016. The average United States yield for 2017, at 14.1 bushels per acre, was down 9.6 bushels from 2016 and represented the lowest United States yield since 1989. Production of **safflower** in 2017, at 180 million pounds, was down 18 percent from 2016 and was the third lowest production since records began in 1991. Growers planted 162,000 acres in 2017, an increase of 1 percent from 2016. Harvested area, at 143,200 acres, was down 6 percent from the previous year. Average yield, at 1,256 pounds per acre, declined 176 pounds from 2016.

Sugarbeet production for 2017 was estimated at 35.3 million tons, down 4 percent from the previous year's revised production. Growers in the 11 major sugarbeet-producing States planted 1.13 million acres, down 3 percent from the 2016 revised area. Harvested area, at 1.11 million acres, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 31.7 tons per acre, was down 1.1 tons from last year.

Production of **fall potatoes** for 2017 was estimated at 400 million cwt, down 2 percent from the previous year. Area harvested, at 902,300 acres, was down 1 percent from 2016. The average yield was estimated at 443 cwt per acre, down 4 cwt from the previous year's record high yield.

United States **dry edible bean** production was estimated at 35.8 million cwt for 2017, up 25 percent from the previous year. Planted area was estimated at 2.09 million acres, up 26 percent from 2016 and the highest since 1990. Harvested area was estimated at 2.01 million acres, 29 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield was 1,781 pounds per acre, a decrease of 61 pounds from 2016.

Production of **lentils** was estimated at 7.48 million cwt, down 42 percent from the previous year's record high level. Planted area, at 1.10 million acres, was up 18 percent from a year earlier, while harvested acreage, at 1.02 million acres, was up 13 percent from 2016. Planted and harvested area were at record highs in Montana and the United States. Average yield was 732 pounds per acre, down 682 pounds from 2016 and the lowest since records began in 1986. Production of **dry edible peas** was estimated at 14.2 million cwt, down 49 percent from the previous year. Planted area, at 1.13 million acres, and harvested area, at 1.05 million acres, decreased by 18 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Average United States yield, at 1,350 pounds per acre, was down 736 pounds from 2016 and the lowest level since 1996. United States **Austrian winter pea** production was forecast at 125,000 cwt, down 73 percent from the previous year, and at the lowest level since 2008. Planted area was estimated at 26,500 acres, down 28 percent from a year earlier. Area harvested totaled 9,400 acres, down 65 percent from 2016. United States yield, at 1,330 pounds per acre, was down 370 pounds from a year earlier.

Winter wheat seeded area for 2018 is expected to total 32.6 million acres, down less than 1 percent from 2017. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 23.1 million; Soft Red Winter, 5.98 million; and White Winter, 3.56 million.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2017 Summary* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.