



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 – 2018

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018 **corn** for grain crop is estimated at 5.78 million bushels, 27 percent above last year's production of 4.55 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 85.0 bushels per acre is 15.0 bushels per acre above the yield realized last year. Area harvested for grain in 2018, at 68,000 acres, is 3,000 acres above last year. Acreage cut for **corn silage** is estimated at 37,000 acres, up 12,000 acres from last year, with production estimated at 740,000 tons, compared with 500,000 tons produced last year.

Oat seedings in Montana totaled 70,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Producers harvested 23,000 acres for grain or seed, up 5,000 acres from 2017. Oat production totaled 989,000 bushels in 2018, up 17 percent from last year. Oat yield is 43.0 bushels per acre in 2018, down 4.0 bushels per acre from the previous year.

Montana's **barley** seeded area, at 790,000 acres, is up 20,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 600,000 acres, is up 35,000 acres from 2017. Barley yield, at 56.0 bushels per acre, is up 5.0 bushels per acre from last year. Barley production in 2018 is estimated at 33.60 million bushels, up 17 percent from the previous year.

All wheat production in Montana, estimated at 197.63 million bushels, is up 55 percent from 2017. All wheat yield was 38.3 bushels per acre, up 11.0 bushels per acre from a year ago. **Winter wheat** producers seeded 1.65 million acres in the fall of 2017 for harvest in 2018, down from 1.75 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Acreage harvested for grain decreased 20,000 acres from last year to 1.57 million acres in 2018. Winter wheat production is estimated at 78.50 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Winter wheat yield, at 50.0 bushels per acre, is up 8.0 bushels per acre from last year and is a record high yield, 1.0 bushel above the previous record set in 2010 and 2016. **Spring wheat** seedings, at 2.90 million acres, are up 400,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested totaled 2.82 million acres, up from 2.29 million acres harvested last year. Spring wheat production is estimated at 95.88 million bushels, up 99 percent from last year. Spring wheat yield, at 34.0 bushels per acre, is up 13.0 bushels per acre from last year. **Durum wheat** seedings, at 840,000 acres, are down 50,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested totaled 775,000 acres, down from 785,000 acres harvested last year. Durum wheat production is estimated at 23.25 million bushels, up 85 percent from last year. Durum wheat yield, at 30.0 bushels per acre, is up 14.0 bushels per acre from last year.

All hay production for 2018 is estimated at 5.60 million tons, up 18 percent from the 2017 total. **Alfalfa hay** production is estimated at 3.90 million tons from 1.90 million acres harvested, up 430,000 tons from 2017. Average yield for the 2018 crop is 2.05 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton per acre from last year. **All other hay** production totaled 1.70 million tons from 1.00 million acres harvested, up 425,000 tons from 2017. The average yield of 1.70 tons per acre is up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Montana are estimated at 115,000 acres, up 15 percent from 2017.

As of December 1, producers in Montana were storing 4.20 million tons of **all hay**, up 15 percent from the 3.65 million tons stored last year.

Montana **canola** growers planted 120,000 acres in 2018, down 35,000 acres from 2017. Harvested area totaled 117,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from last year. The 2018 canola yield is 1,120 pounds per acre, up 260 pounds per acre from a year ago. Canola production totaled 131.04 million pounds, up from 117.82 million pounds in 2017. Montana's **flaxseed** production in 2018 is 629,000 bushels, up from 342,000 bushels a year ago. Growers planted 39,000 acres and harvested 37,000 acres in 2018, compared with 52,000 acres planted and 38,000 acres harvested in 2017. The average yield for 2018 is 17.0 bushels per acre, up 8.0 bushels per acre from a year ago. Production of **safflower** in 2018 totaled 35.64 million pounds, compared with 17.08 million pounds in 2017. Planted acres are 42,000,

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up 3,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are 36,000, compared with 28,000 acres in 2017. Safflower yield averaged 990 pounds per acre in 2018, up 380 pounds per acre from last year.

The state's **sugarbeet** crop of 1.32 million tons for 2018 is down 6 percent from the 1.40 million tons produced in 2017. Producers harvested 42,400 acres in 2018, down from 42,700 acres in 2017. Average yield is estimated at 31.1 tons per acre, 1.6 tons per acre below 2017.

Montana **potato** growers produced an estimated 3.80 million hundredweight of potatoes this year, up 1 percent from last year's crop. Average yield, at 345 hundredweight per acre, increased 5 hundredweight per acre from last year. The harvested area, estimated at 11,100 acres, is unchanged from the acres harvested last year.

Dry edible bean production is set at 5.21 million hundredweight, 97 percent above the 2017 crop of 2.64 million hundredweight. Average yield is estimated at 1,350 pounds per acre, 350 pounds per acre above last year. Harvested area, at 386,000 acres, is 121,000 acres more than last year. **Pinto bean** production in 2018 is 62,000 hundredweight, down 59 percent from last year. Planted acreage is 3,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 2,600 acres, is 3,400 acres below the previous year. The pinto bean yield is 2,400 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds per acre from last year. All **garbanzo bean** production, is 5.14 million hundredweight, compared to 2.49 million hundredweight in 2017. Planted area totaled 390,000 acres, up from 269,000 planted acres last year. Harvested area is 382,000 acres, compared with 259,000 acres last year. The yield is 1,350 pounds per acre, up 390 pounds per acre from last year.

Montana's 2018 **lentil** production is 4.86 million hundredweight, compared with 4.36 million hundredweight a year ago. Planted area is 500,000 acres, with harvested area at 450,000 acres, compared with last year's 730,000 acres planted and 670,000 acres harvested. Lentil yield for 2018 is 1,080 pounds per acre, up 430 pounds per acre from 2017. **Dry edible pea** production for 2018 in Montana is 5.02 million hundredweight, up 30 percent from a year ago. Dry pea yield for 2018 is 1,620 pounds per acre, up 800 pounds per acre from 2017. Planted and harvested acreages are 335,000 and 310,000 acres, respectively. Last year, growers planted 525,000 acres and harvested 470,000 acres of dry peas. **Austrian winter pea** production in 2018 is 76,000 hundredweight, up 171 percent from last year. Planted area is 12,000 acres, down 8,000 acres from a year ago. Harvested acreage, at 8,000 acres, is up 4,000 acres from 2017. The yield is 950 pounds per acre in 2018, compared with 710 pounds per acre a year ago.

Winter wheat seedings last fall for the 2019 crop year are estimated at 1.80 million acres, up 9 percent from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in 2018 was estimated at 14.4 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the 2017 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at 176.4 bushels per acre, 0.2 bushel below the 2017 record yield of 176.6 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 81.7 million acres, down 1 percent from the 2017 estimate. **Corn silage** production was estimated at 121 million tons for 2018, down 5 percent from 2017. The United States silage yield was estimated at 19.9 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from 2017. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.11 million acres, down 4 percent from a year ago.

Oat production in 2018 was estimated at 56.1 million bushels, up 13 percent from 2017. Yield was estimated at 64.9 bushels per acre, up 3.2 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 865,000 acres, was 8 percent above the previous year.

Barley production was estimated at 153 million bushels, up 8 percent from the 2017 total of 142 million bushels. Average yield, at 77.4 bushels per acre, was up 4.4 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.54 million acres in 2018, up 2 percent from 2017. Harvested area, at 1.98 million acres, was up 1 percent from 2017.

All wheat production totaled 1.88 billion bushels in 2018, up 8 percent from the 2017 total of 1.74 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 39.6 million acres, up 5 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 47.6 bushels per acre, up 1.3 bushels from the previous year. **Winter wheat** production for 2018 totaled 1.18 billion bushels, down 7 percent from the 2017 total of 1.27 billion bushels. The United States yield, at 47.9 bushels per acre, was down 2.3 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain was estimated at a record low 24.7 million acres, down 2 percent from the previous year. **Other spring wheat** production for 2018 was estimated at 623 million bushels, up 50 percent from the 2017 total of 416 million bushels. Harvested area totaled 12.9 million acres, up 27 percent from 2017. The United States yield was estimated at a record high 48.3 bushels per acre, 7.3 bushels above 2017. **Durum wheat** production for 2018 was estimated at 77.3 million bushels, up 41 percent from the 2017 total of 54.8 million bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 1.97 million acres, down 7 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 39.3 bushels per acre, up 13.3 bushels from the 2017 yield.

Production of **all dry hay** for 2018 was estimated at 124 million tons, down 4 percent from the revised 2017 total. Area harvested was estimated at 52.8 million acres, up less than one percent from 2017. The average yield, at 2.34 tons per acre, was down 0.09 ton from the previous year. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in 2018 was estimated at 52.6 million tons, down 6 percent from the revised 2017 total. Harvested area, at 16.6 million acres, was 2 percent below the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 3.17

tons per acre, down 0.11 ton from 2017. Production of **all other hay** in 2018 totaled 71.0 million tons, down 2 percent from the revised 2017 total. Harvested area, at 36.2 million acres, was up 1 percent from the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 1.96 tons per acre, down 0.06 ton from 2017. Growers seeded 2.22 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2018, up less than 1 percent from 2017. The new seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures will normally be harvested for the first time in the year following planting.

All hay stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2018 totaled 79.1 million tons, down 6 percent from the previous December. Disappearance from May 1, 2018 - December 1, 2018 totaled 59.9 million tons, compared with 68.2 million tons for the same period a year earlier. This marks the lowest December 1 hay stocks since the drought of 2012 and second lowest since 1977.

Canola production in 2018 was estimated at a record 3.62 billion pounds, up 18 percent from 2017. The average yield, at a record high 1,861 pounds per acre, up 335 pounds from the 2017 average yield. Planted area was estimated at 1.99 million acres, 4 percent below the previous year's acreage. Harvested area, at 1.94 million acres, was down 3 percent from 2017.

Production of **flaxseed** in 2018 totaled 4.47 million bushels, up 16 percent from the previous year. Harvested area totaled 198,000 acres in 2018, down 27 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage in North Dakota, the largest flaxseed-producing State, was estimated at 158,000 acres, down 31 percent from 2017. The average United States yield for 2018, at 22.6 bushels per acre, was up 8.5 bushels from 2017.

Production of **safflower** in 2018, at 236 million pounds, was up 34 percent from 2017. Growers planted 167,500 acres in 2018, an increase of 2 percent from 2017. Harvested area, at 156,400 acres, was up 8 percent from the previous year. Average yield, at 1,511 pounds per acre, increased 299 pounds from 2017.

Sugarbeet production for 2018 was estimated at 33.1 million tons, down 6 percent from the previous year's revised production. Growers in the 11 major sugarbeet-producing States planted 1.11 million acres, down 2 percent from the 2017 revised area. Harvested area, at 1.10 million acres, was down 2 percent from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 30.3 tons per acre, was down 1.4 tons from last year.

Production of **fall potatoes** for 2018 was estimated at 420 million cwt, up 3 percent from the previous year. Area harvested, at 918,600 acres, was up slightly from 2017. The average yield was estimated at a record high 458 cwt per acre, up 13 cwt from the previous year.

United States **dry edible bean** production was estimated at 37.5 million cwt for 2018, up 4 percent from the previous year. Planted area was estimated at 2.08 million acres, down 1 percent from 2017. Harvested area was estimated at 2.02 million acres, down fractionally from the previous year. The average United States yield was 1,860 pounds per acre, an increase of 82 pounds from 2017 and the third highest on record.

Production of **lentils** was estimated at 8.41 million cwt, up 12 percent from the previous year. Planted area, at 780,000 acres, was down 29 percent from a year earlier, while harvested acreage, at 718,000 acres, was down 30 percent from 2017. Despite these declining acres in 2018, both planted and harvested acreage were at the third highest level on record. Average yield was 1,171 pounds per acre, up 439 pounds from last season's record low. Production of **dry edible peas** was estimated at 15.9 million cwt, up 12 percent from the previous year. Planted area, at 856,500 acres, and harvested area, at 807,900 acres, decreased by 24 percent and 23 percent, respectively. Average United States yield, at 1,972 pounds per acre, was up 622 pounds from the previous year's drought-reduced crop. **Austrian winter pea** production was estimated at 124,000 cwt, up 24 percent from the previous year. Planted area was estimated at 16,400 acres, down 36 percent from a year earlier. This is the lowest planted area since 2001. Area harvested totaled 10,900 acres, up 36 percent from 2017. United States yield, at 1,138 pounds per acre, was down 112 pounds from a year earlier.

Winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2019 is estimated at 31.3 million acres, down 4 percent from 2018 and down 4 percent from 2017. This represents the second lowest United States acreage on record.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2018 Summary* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.