



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 – AUGUST 2019

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on August 1 conditions, **oat** production in Montana is forecast at 1.41 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 18 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 43 percent from the 2018 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 30,000 acres, up 7,000 acres from the 23,000 acres harvested last year. Oat yield is forecast at 47.0 bushels per acre, up 7.0 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast and up 4.0 bushels per acre from last year. As of August 4, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 5 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Oats turning color were at 55 percent complete, compared with 72 percent last year and the 5-year average of 79 percent.

Barley production is forecast at 38.07 million bushels, up 15 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 13 percent from last year's crop. Area for harvest in 2019, at 705,000 acres, is up 105,000 acres from the 600,000 acres harvested last year. Barley yield is forecast at 54.0 bushels per acre, up 7.0 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast but 2.0 bushels per acre below last year. As of August 4, the barley crop condition was rated 8 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Barley turning color was at 86 percent complete, compared with 84 percent last year and the 5-year average of 90 percent.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 88.80 bushels, up 4 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 13 percent from the 78.50 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 1.85 million acres, is 280,000 acres more than the 1.57 million acres harvested in 2018. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 48.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast but 2.0 bushels per acre below last year's record final yield. As of August 4, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 12 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 36 percent excellent. Winter wheat harvest was 26 percent complete, compared with 40 percent last year and the 5-year average of 62 percent.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 19.31 million bushels, down 15 percent from the July 1 forecast and down 17 percent from the 23.25 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 585,000 acres, is 190,000 acres less than the 775,000 acres harvested in 2018. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 33.0 bushels per acre, 6.0 bushels per acre below the July 1 forecast but 3.0 bushels per acre above last year's final yield. As of August 4, the Durum wheat crop condition was rated 3 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Durum wheat turning color was at 58 percent complete, compared to 72 percent last year and the 5-year average of 65 percent.

Spring wheat production in Montana is forecast at 85.00 million bushels, up 6 percent from the July 1 forecast but down 11 percent from the 95.88 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.50 million acres, is down 320,000 acres from the 2.82 million acres harvested in 2018. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 34.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels per acre above the July 1 forecast and unchanged from last year's final yield. As of August 4, the spring wheat crop condition was rated 11 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Spring wheat turning color was at 65 percent complete, compared with 84 percent last year and the 5-year average of 81 percent.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 2.00 million acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, up 100,000 acres from 2018. They also expect to harvest 900,000 acres of **other hay** in 2019, down 100,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 4.60 million tons, up 18 percent from 3.90 million tons produced in 2018. Other hay production is forecast at 1.62 million tons, down 5 percent from 1.70 million tons produced 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 2.05 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.70 tons per acre for other hay.

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Sugarbeet production is forecast at 1.39 million tons, up 5 percent from 1.32 million tons produced in 2018. Growers expect to harvest 41,500 acres this year compared with 42,400 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 33.5 tons per acre, up from 31.1 tons per acre a year ago.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Oat production is forecast at 60.4 million bushels, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 12 percent from 2018 for comparable States. Growers expect to harvest 909,000 acres for grain, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 10 percent from 2018 for comparable States. Based on conditions as of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 66.4 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from the previous forecast but 1.1 bushels above the 2018 average yield for comparable States.

Barley production is forecast at 172 million bushels, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 12 percent from 2018. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 73.9 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast but down 3.5 bushels from 2018. Area harvested for grain, is forecast at 2.33 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 18 percent from 2018.

All wheat production for grain is forecast at 1.98 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the previous forecast and up 5 percent from 2018. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 51.6 bushels per harvested acre, up 1.6 bushel from the previous forecast, and up 4.0 bushels from 2018. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 38.4 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 3 percent from 2018.

Winter wheat production for grain is forecast at 1.33 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the previous forecast and up 12 percent from 2018. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 53.2 bushels per harvested acre, up 1.4 bushels from last month, and up 5.3 bushels from 2018. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 24.9 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 1 percent from 2018. Hard Red Winter production, at 840 million bushels, is up 4 percent from the previous forecast. Soft Red Winter, at 257 million bushels, is down 1 percent from the previous forecast. White Winter, at 229 million bushels, is up 1 percent from the previous forecast. Of the White Winter production, 24.6 million bushels are Hard White and 204 million bushels are Soft White.

Durum wheat production for grain, is forecast at 57.3 million bushels, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 26 percent from 2018. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.3 bushels per harvested acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast, but up 3.0 bushels from 2018. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 1.36 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 31 percent from 2018.

Other spring wheat production for grain is forecast at 597 million bushels, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 4 percent from 2018. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 49.2 bushels per harvested acre, up 2.0 bushels from the previous forecast, and up 0.9 bushel from 2018. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 12.1 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 6 percent from 2018. Of the total production, 566 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, down 4 percent from 2018.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2019 is forecast at 55.4 million tons, up 5 percent from 2018. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.29 tons per acre, up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 16.8 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast, but up 1 percent from 2018.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 75.7 million tons, up 7 percent from 2018. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 2.11 tons per acre, up 0.15 ton from last year. If realized, this would represent a new record high for the United States, surpassing the previous record of 2.09 tons per acre in 2016. Harvested area is forecast at 35.9 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast, but down 1 percent from 2018.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2019 crop year is forecast at 34.8 million tons, up 5 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.12 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 31.1 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.