



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 12, 2019

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## CROP PRODUCTION – SEPTEMBER 2019

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on September 1 conditions, **sugarbeet** production in Montana is forecast at 1.31 million tons, according to the September 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down 1 percent from the 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 31.5 tons per acre, down 2.0 tons per acre from the August 1 forecast but up from last year's yield of 31.1 tons per acre. As of September 1, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 9 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 14 percent excellent.

**Chickpea** production for 2019 is forecast at 3.29 million hundredweight, down 36 percent from the 5.14 million hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,720 pounds per acre, up 370 pounds per acre from last year. Growers expect to harvest 191,000 acres from 196,000 acres planted this year, compared with 382,000 acres harvested from 390,000 acres planted last year. As of September 1, Montana's dry bean harvest (including Chickpeas) was 30 percent complete, compared with 47 percent last year and the five-year average of 68 percent.

**Lentil** production for 2019 is estimated to be 4.02 million hundredweight, down 17 percent from last year. Area harvested is forecast at 275,000 acres, down from 450,000 acres harvested in 2018. Yield is estimated to be 1,460 pounds per acre, up 380 pounds per acre from last year. As of September 1, 74 percent of lentils had been harvested, compared with 85 percent last year.

Montana **dry edible pea** production, forecast at 8.75 million hundredweight, is up 74 percent from last year. Acres harvested are estimated at 500,000, up 61 percent from 2018. Yield is expected to be 1,750 pounds per acre, up 130 pounds per acre from last year. As of September 1, 83 percent of dry edible peas had been harvested, compared with 91 percent last year and the five-year average of 93 percent.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2019 crop year is forecast at 33.5 million tons, down 3 percent from last month but up 1 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.12 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 30.0 tons per acre, a decrease of 1.1 tons from the previous forecast and 0.3 ton from last year.

Production of all **chickpeas** is forecast at 7.17 million cwt, down 44 percent from 2018. Area planted for all chickpeas for the 2019 crop year is estimated at 445,200 acres, down 48 percent from the previous year. Area harvested is forecast at 437,000 acres, 48 percent below 2018. Small chickpea area planted is estimated at 106,000 acres, down 52 percent from 2018. Area harvested for small chickpeas is forecast at 103,300 acres, a 53 percent decline from 2018. Area planted for large chickpeas in 2019 is estimated at 339,200 acres, a 47 percent decline from the previous year. Large chickpea area harvested is forecast at 333,700 acres, a 46 percent decline from 2018.

Production of **lentils** is forecast at 6.55 million cwt, down 22 percent from a year ago. Planted area, at 481,000 acres, is down 38 percent from last year, while harvested acreage, at 459,000 acres, is down 36 percent from 2018. The average yield is expected to be 1,428 pounds per acre, up 257 pounds from last year.

Production of **dry edible peas** is forecast at 22.3 million cwt, up 40 percent from last year. Planted area, at 1.10 million acres, and harvested area, at 1.05 million acres, increased by 28 percent and 29 percent, respectively. The average United States yield is expected to be 2,131 pounds per acre, up 159 pounds from 2018. If realized, this will be the highest yield since 2004.

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