



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



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CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 2019

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **canola** production in Montana is forecast at a record high 210.25 million pounds, up 62 percent from the 2018 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 145,000 acres, up 29,000 acres from the 116,000 acres harvested last year. Canola yield is forecast at 1,450 pounds per acre, up from 1,120 pounds per acre last year. As of September 29, canola harvest was 78 complete, compared to 91 percent last year.

Alfalfa hay production in Montana is forecast at 4.00 million tons, up from the 3.90 million tons produced in 2018. Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 2.00 million acres of alfalfa hay this year, up 100,000 acres from 2018. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 2.00 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 2.05 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 2019, down 100,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.35 million tons, down 21 percent from the 1.70 million tons a year ago. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.50 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 1.70 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 1.80 tons per acre.

Sugarbeet production in Montana is forecast at 1.30 million tons, down 1 percent from the 1.32 million tons produced in 2018. Growers expect to harvest 41,600 acres this year, compared with 42,400 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 31.3 tons per acre, down 0.2 tons per acre from the September 1 forecast but up from last year's yield of 31.1 tons per acre. As of September 29, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 8 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Harvest of sugarbeets was estimated at 1 percent complete, compared to 14 percent last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The first production **canola** forecast for 2019 is 3.71 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the 2018 revised production of 3.62 billion pounds. If realized, this will be the largest production on record for the United States. Area planted, at 2.04 million acres, is up 1 percent from the June estimate and up 2 percent from last year's area. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.99 million acres, up less than 1 percent from June and up 3 percent from 2018. Both planted and the harvested area forecast for the Nation will be the second largest on record. The October yield forecast, at 1,860 pounds per acre, is 1 pound below last year's record high yield.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2019 is forecast at 54.2 million tons, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 3 percent from 2018. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.22 tons per acre, down 0.07 ton from the previous forecast but up 0.05 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 16.8 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 1 percent from 2018.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 76.7 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 8 percent from 2018. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 2.13 tons per acre, up 0.02 ton from the previous forecast and up 0.17 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 previous forecast, but down 1 percent from 2018.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2019 crop year is forecast at 33.6 million tons, up slightly from last month and up 1 percent from last year. Area planted, at 1.13 million acres, is up slightly from the August forecast and up 2 percent from last year's planted area. Sugarbeet producers expect to harvest 1.12 million acres, down slightly from the previous forecast but up 2 percent from 2018. Yield is forecast at 30.1 tons per acre, an increase of 0.1 ton from the previous forecast but a decrease of 0.2 ton from last year.

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