



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
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CROP PRODUCTION – MAY 2020

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Montana, based on conditions as of May 1, 2020, is forecast at 79.05 million bushels, according to the May 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is 17 percent below last year's production of 95.00 million bushels but 1 percent above the 78.50 million bushel crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, forecast at 1.55 million acres, is 350,000 acres less than a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest winter wheat harvested acreage since 1948 when 1.549 million acres were harvested. Average yield is forecast at 51.0 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel per acre from last year's yield. If realized, this will be a record winter wheat yield for Montana, 1.0 bushel above the previous record of 50.0 bushels per acre set in 2018 and 2019.

As of May 3, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 7 percent excellent, compared with 5 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 25 percent excellent last year.

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches as of May 1, 2020 totaled 1.04 million tons, down 5 percent from stocks of 1.10 million tons on hand last year. Hay production for 2019 was 6.23 million tons, 11 percent higher than 2018 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2019 to May 1, 2020 was 4.06 million tons, compared with 3.10 million tons the same period a year earlier.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.25 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2019. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 51.7 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels from last year's average yield of 53.6 bushels per acre.

Hard Red Winter production, at 733 million bushels, is down 12 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 298 million bushels, is up 24 percent from 2019. White Winter, at 224 million bushels, is down 3 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 16.2 million bushels are Hard White and 207 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on United States farms as of May 1, 2020 totaled 20.4 million tons, up 37 percent from May 1, 2019, which were the second lowest since records began in 1950. Disappearance from December 1, 2019 - May 1, 2020 totaled 64.1 million tons, down less than 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

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