



# NEWS RELEASE

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## CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2020

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on August 1 conditions, **oat** production in Montana is forecast at 1.50 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 20 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 14 percent from the 2019 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 25,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from the 24,000 acres harvested last year. Oat yield is forecast at 60.0 bushels per acre, up 10.0 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast and up 5.0 bushels per acre from last year. As of August 2, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 3 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Oats turning color were at 55 percent complete, compared with 46 percent last year and the 5-year average of 72 percent.

**Barley** production is forecast at 52.65 million bushels, up 5 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 21 percent from last year's crop. Area for harvest in 2020, at 810,000 acres, is up 70,000 acres from the 740,000 acres harvested last year. Barley yield is forecast at 65.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast and 6.0 bushels per acre above last year. If realized, this would be a record yield, 3.0 bushels per acre above the previous record of 62.0 bushels per acre set in 2010. As of August 2, the barley crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Barley turning color was at 80 percent complete, compared with 78 percent last year and the 5-year average of 87 percent.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 75.40 million bushels, up 6 percent from the July 1 forecast but down 21 percent from the 95.00 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 1.45 million acres, is 450,000 acres less than the 1.90 million acres harvested in 2019. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 52.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast and 2.0 bushels per acre above last year's final yield. If realized, this would be a record yield, 2.0 bushels per acre above the previous record of 50.0 bushels per acre set in 2018 and 2019. As of August 2, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 14 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 36 percent excellent. Winter wheat harvest was 20 percent complete, compared with 19 percent last year and the 5-year average of 52 percent.

**Durum wheat** production is forecast at 22.42 million bushels, up 12 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 1 percent from the 22.15 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 590,000 acres, is 75,000 acres more than the 515,000 acres harvested in 2019. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 38.0 bushels per acre, 4.0 bushels per acre above the July 1 forecast but 5.0 bushels per acre below last year's final yield. As of August 2, the Durum wheat crop condition was rated 1 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Durum wheat turning color was at 50 percent complete, compared to 50 percent last year and the 5-year average of 65 percent.

**Spring wheat** production in Montana is forecast at 114.00 million bushels, up 5 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 12 percent from the 102.12 million bushels produced last year. Estimated acreage for harvest, at 2.85 million acres, is up 90,000 acres from the 2.76 million acres harvested in 2019. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 40.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels per acre above the July 1 forecast and 3.0 bushels per acre above last year's final yield. If realized, this would be a record yield, 2.0 bushels per acre above the previous record of 38.0 bushels per acre set in 2010. As of August 2, the spring wheat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Spring wheat turning color was at 69 percent complete, compared with 55 percent last year and the 5-year average of 73 percent.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.90 million acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, down 200,000 acres from 2019. They also expect to harvest 950,000 acres of **other hay** in 2020, up 50,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 4.18 million tons, down 7 percent from 4.52 million tons produced in 2019. Other hay production is forecast at 1.52 million tons, down 11 percent from

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1.71 million tons produced a year ago. Yields are expected to average 2.20 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.60 tons per acre for other hay, compared to last year's yields of 2.15 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.90 tons per acre for other hay.

**Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 1.39 million tons, up 20 percent from 1.15 million tons produced in 2019. Growers expect to harvest 42,600 acres this year compared with 36,500 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 32.5 tons per acre, up from 31.6 tons per acre a year ago. As of August 2, the sugarbeet crop was rated 17 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Oat** production is forecast at 64.9 million bushels, up 22 percent from 2019. Growers expect to harvest 998,000 acres for grain, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 21 percent from 2019. Based on conditions as of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 65.0 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from the previous forecast but 0.7 bushel above the 2019 average yield.

**Barley** production is forecast at 176 million bushels, up 4 percent from the previous forecast and up 4 percent from 2019. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 78.8 bushels per acre, up 2.7 bushels from the previous forecast and up 1.1 bushels from last year. If realized, that would mark a new record high yield for the United States, surpassing the previous record of 77.9 bushels per acre in 2016. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.23 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 2 percent from 2019.

**All wheat** production for grain is forecast at 1.84 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the previous forecast but down 4 percent from 2019. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 50.1 bushels per harvested acre, up 0.4 bushel from the previous forecast, but down 1.6 bushels from 2019. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 36.7 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 1 percent from 2019.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.20 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the July 1 forecast and down 8 percent from 2019. As of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 51.1 bushels per acre, down 0.9 bushel from last month and down 2.5 bushels from last year's average yield of 53.6 bushels per acre. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 23.4 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 4 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 695 million bushels, is down 2 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 277 million bushels, is down 1 percent from the July forecast. White Winter, at 226 million bushels, is down less than 1 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 14.6 million bushels are Hard White and 212 million bushels are Soft White.

**Durum wheat** production is forecast at 61.8 million bushels, up 11 percent from the previous forecast and up 15 percent from 2019. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.8 bushels per harvested acre, up 4.3 bushels from the previous forecast but down 2.9 bushels from 2019. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 1.44 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 23 percent from 2019.

**Other spring wheat** production for grain is forecast at 577 million bushels, up 5 percent from the previous forecast and up 3 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 49.0 bushels per harvested acre, up 2.4 bushels from the previous forecast, and up 0.8 bushel from 2019. If realized, a record high yield is expected for the United States. Area harvested for grain or seed is expected to total 11.8 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but 1 percent above 2019. Of the total production, 530 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 2 percent from 2019.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2020 is forecast at 51.7 million tons, down 6 percent from 2019. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.16 tons per acre, down 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 16.4 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast, and down 2 percent from 2019.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 73.6 million tons, down 1 percent from 2019. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 2.04 tons per acre, down 0.03 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 36.0 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2020, but up 1 percent from 2019.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2020 crop year is forecast at 35.4 million tons, up 24 percent from last year. Sugarbeet producers expect to harvest 1.13 million acres, unchanged from previous forecast but up 15 percent from last year. Expected yield is forecast at 31.4 tons per acre, an increase of 2.2 tons from last year.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).