



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 – OCTOBER 2020

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **canola** production in Montana is forecast at a record high 217.50 million pounds, up 9 percent from the 2019 crop, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Canola producers planted an estimated 155,000 acres in 2020, up 5,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested is expected to total a record high 145,000 acres, up 7,000 acres from the 138,000 acres harvested last year. Canola yield is forecast at 1,500 pounds per acre, up from 1,450 pounds per acre last year

Alfalfa hay production in Montana is forecast at 4.56 million tons, up 1 percent from the 4.52 million tons produced in 2019. Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.90 million acres of alfalfa hay this year, down 200,000 acres from 2019. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 2.40 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 2.15 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 2.20 tons per acre. Producers expect to harvest 950,000 acres of **other hay** in 2020, up 50,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.71 million tons, unchanged from a year ago. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.80 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 1.90 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 1.60 tons per acre.

Sugarbeet production in Montana is forecast at 1.45 million tons, up 26 percent from the 1.15 million tons produced in 2019. Growers expect to harvest 43,300 acres this year, compared with 36,500 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 33.5 tons per acre, up 0.2 tons per acre from the September 1 forecast and up from last year's yield of 31.6 tons per acre. As of October 4, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 30 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. Harvest of sugarbeets was estimated at 7 percent complete, compared to 4 percent last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The first **canola** production forecast for 2020 is 3.19 billion pounds, down 6 percent from the 2019 revised production of 3.40 billion pounds. If realized, this will be the third largest production on record for the United States. Area planted, at 1.85 million acres, is down 1 percent from the June estimate and down 9 percent from last year's area. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.81 million acres, down 1 percent from June and down 5 percent from 2019. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data. Both planted and the harvested area forecast for the Nation will be the fourth largest on record. The October yield forecast, at 1,759 pounds per acre, is 22 pounds below last year's yield but will still represent the fifth highest average yield on record for the Nation, if realized.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2020 is forecast at 52.6 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down 4 percent from 2019. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.22 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from the August forecast but down 0.06 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 16.4 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, and down 2 percent from 2019. Record high yields are forecast in Arizona, Idaho, and Oregon.

Production of **other hay** is forecast at 75.1 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 1 percent from 2019. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 2.08 tons per acre, up 0.04 from the August forecast and up 0.01 ton from last year. If realized this yield would represent the second highest yield on record. Harvested area is forecast at 36.0 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 1 percent from 2019. Record high yields are expected in Alabama, California, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, and Wyoming.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2020 crop year is forecast at 35.8 million tons, up 2 percent from last month and up 25 percent from last year. Area planted, at 1.17 million acres, is up 2 percent from the previous forecast and up 3 percent from last year. Sugarbeet

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producers expect to harvest 1.15 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous forecast and up 17 percent from 2019. Yield is forecast at 31.2 tons per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast but an increase of 2.0 tons from last year.

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