



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY – 2020

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

The 2020 **corn** for grain crop is estimated at 6.65 million bushels, 17 percent above last year's production of 5.70 million bushels, according to the December 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The average yield of 109.0 bushels per acre is 14.0 bushels per acre above the yield realized last year. Area harvested for grain in 2020, at 61,000 acres, is 1,000 acres above last year. Acreage cut for **corn silage** is estimated at 51,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from last year, with production estimated at 1.07 million tons, compared with 1.15 million tons produced last year.

Oat seedings in Montana totaled 70,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 38,000 acres for grain or seed, up 12,000 acres from 2019 and the highest oat harvested acreage in Montana since 40,000 acres were harvested in 2004. Oat production totaled 1.71 million bushels in 2020, up 20 percent from last year. Oat yield is 45.0 bushels per acre in 2020, down 10.0 bushels per acre from the previous year.

Montana's **barley** seeded area, at 890,000 acres, is down 60,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 725,000 acres, is down 35,000 acres from 2019. Barley yield, at a record high 63.0 bushels per acre, is up 4.0 bushels per acre from last year and 1.0 bushel per acre above the previous record of 62.0 bushels per acre set in 2010. Barley production in 2020 is estimated at 45.68 million bushels, up 2 percent from the previous year.

All wheat production in Montana, estimated at 227.35 million bushels, is up 4 percent from 2019. All wheat yield was 41.7 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel per acre from a year ago. **Winter wheat** producers seeded 1.55 million acres in the fall of 2019 for harvest in 2020, down from 2.00 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop and is the lowest seeded acreage since 1.45 million acres were planted in 2002. Acreage harvested for grain decreased 410,000 acres from last year to 1.49 million acres in 2020 and is the lowest harvested acreage since 780,000 acres were harvested in 2002. Winter wheat production is estimated at 75.99 million bushels, down 20 percent from last year. Winter wheat yield, at a record high 51.0 bushels per acre, is up 1.0 bushel per acre from last year and 1.0 bushel per acre above the previous record of 50.0 bushels per acre set in 2018 and 2019. **Spring wheat** seedings, at 3.30 million acres, are up 400,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested totaled 3.28 million acres, up from 2.73 million acres harvested last year. Spring wheat production is estimated at 124.64 million bushels, up 23 percent from last year and the second highest production on record behind 1995. Spring wheat yield, at 38.0 bushels per acre, is up 1.0 bushel per acre from last year and equals the previous record of 38.0 bushels per acre set in 2010. **Durum wheat** seedings, at 690,000 acres, are up 140,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested totaled 685,000 acres, up from 505,000 acres harvested last year. Durum wheat production is estimated at 26.72 million bushels, up 23 percent from last year and the second highest production on record behind 2016. Durum wheat yield, at 39.0 bushels per acre, is down 4.0 bushels per acre from last year.

All hay production for 2020 is estimated at 5.91 million tons, down 5 percent from the 2019 total. **Alfalfa hay** production is estimated at 4.18 million tons from 1.90 million acres harvested, down 335,000 tons from 2019. Average yield for the 2020 crop is 2.20 tons per acre, up 0.05 ton per acre from last year. **All other hay** production totaled 1.73 million tons from 960,000 acres harvested, up 18,000 tons from 2019. The average yield of 1.80 tons per acre is down 0.10 ton per acre from last year. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Montana are estimated at 125,000 acres, down 4 percent from 2019.

As of December 1, producers in Montana were storing 4.80 million tons of **all hay**, down 6 percent from the 5.10 million tons stored last year.

Montana **canola** growers planted 155,000 acres in 2020, up 5,000 acres from 2019. Harvested area totaled a record high 149,000 acres, up 11,000 acres from last year. The 2020 canola yield is 1,620 pounds per acre, up 170 pounds per acre from a year ago. Canola

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production totaled a record high 241.38 million pounds, up from 200.10 million pounds in 2019. Montana's **flaxseed** production in 2020 is 1.63 million bushels, up from 1.34 million bushels a year ago. Growers planted 105,000 acres and harvested 102,000 acres in 2020, compared with 99,000 acres planted and 89,000 acres harvested in 2019. The average yield for 2020 is 16.0 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel per acre from a year ago. Production of **safflower** in 2020 totaled 40.92 million pounds, compared with 36.12 million pounds in 2019. Planted acres are 49,000, down 4,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are 44,000, compared with 43,000 acres in 2019. Safflower yield averaged 930 pounds per acre in 2020, up 90 pounds per acre from last year.

The state's **sugarbeet** crop of 1.19 million tons for 2020 is up 3 percent from the 1.15 million tons produced in 2019. Producers harvested 38,000 acres in 2020, up from 36,500 acres in 2019. Average yield is estimated at 31.3 tons per acre, 0.3 ton per acre below 2019.

All chickpea production, is 1.62 million hundredweight, compared to 2.45 million hundredweight in 2019. Planted area totaled 116,300 acres, down from 199,000 planted acres last year. Harvested area is 110,300 acres, compared with 175,000 acres last year. The yield is 1,470 pounds per acre, up 70 pounds per acre from last year.

Montana's 2020 **lentil** production is 5.33 million hundredweight, compared with 3.35 million hundredweight a year ago. Planted area is 370,000 acres, with harvested area at 360,000 acres, compared with last year's 295,000 acres planted and 260,000 acres harvested. Lentil yield for 2020 is 1,480 pounds per acre, up 190 pounds per acre from 2019. **Dry edible pea** production for 2020 in Montana is 9.83 million hundredweight, down 3 percent from a year ago. Dry pea yield for 2020 is 2,070 pounds per acre, up 40 pounds per acre from 2019. Planted and harvested acreages are 490,000 and 475,000 acres, respectively. Last year, growers planted 530,000 acres and harvested 500,000 acres of dry peas.

Winter wheat seedings last fall for the 2021 crop year are estimated at 1.70 million acres, up 10 percent from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in 2020 was estimated at 14.2 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the 2019 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at 172.0 bushels per acre, 4.5 bushels above the 2019 yield of 167.5 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 82.5 million acres, up 1 percent from the 2019 estimate. **Corn silage** production was estimated at 138 million tons for 2020, up 3 percent from the 2019 estimate. The United States silage yield was estimated at 20.5 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from 2019. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.72 million acres, up 2 percent from the 2019 estimate.

Oat production in 2020 was estimated at 65.4 million bushels, up 23 percent from 2019. Yield was estimated at 65.1 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushel from the previous year. Harvested area, at 1.00 million acres, was 21 percent above 2019.

Barley production was estimated at 165 million bushels, down 4 percent from the revised 2019 total of 172 million bushels. The average yield, at 77.5 bushels per acre, was down 0.2 bushel from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.62 million acres in 2020, down 5 percent from 2019. Harvested area, at 2.13 million acres, was down 4 percent from 2019.

All wheat production totaled 1.83 billion bushels in 2020, down 5 percent from the 2019 total of 1.93 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 36.7 million acres, down 2 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 49.7 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2019 by type were: winter wheat, 1.17 billion bushels, down 11 percent; other spring wheat, 586 million bushels, up 4 percent; and Durum wheat, 68.8 million bushels, up 28 percent. **Winter wheat** production for 2020 totaled 1.17 billion bushels, down 11 percent from the 2019 total of 1.32 billion bushels. The United States yield, at 50.9 bushels per acre, was down 2.7 bushels from 2019. Area harvested for grain was estimated at a record low 23.0 million acres, down 6 percent from the previous year. **Other spring wheat** production for 2020 was estimated at 586 million bushels, up 4 percent from the revised 2019 total of 561 million bushels. Harvested area totaled 12.1 million acres, up 4 percent from 2019. The United States yield was estimated at a record high 48.6 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from the previous record high of 48.3 bushels per acre in 2019. Of the total production, 530 million bushels were Hard Red Spring wheat, up 2 percent from the 2019 total. **Durum wheat** production for 2020 was estimated at 68.8 million bushels, up 28 percent from the 2019 total of 54.0 million bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 1.66 million acres, up 41 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 41.4 bushels per acre, down 4.4 bushels from the 2019 yield.

Production of **all dry hay** for 2020 was estimated at 126.8 million tons, down 2 percent from the 2019 total. Area harvested was estimated at 52.2 million acres, down less than 1 percent from 2019. The average yield, at 2.43 tons per acre, was down 0.03 ton from 2019. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in 2020 was estimated at 53.1 million tons, down 3 percent from the 2019 total. Harvested area, at 16.2 million acres, was 3 percent below 2019. Harvested area has been trending lower, but has leveled off in recent years. Average yield was estimated at 3.27 tons per acre, down 0.01 ton from 2019. Production of **all other hay** in 2020 totaled 73.7 million tons, down less than 1 percent from the 2019 total. Harvested area, at 36.0 million acres, was up 1 percent from 2019. Average yield was estimated at 2.05 tons per acre, down 0.02 ton from 2019. This is the fifth highest yield on record, with four of the five

occurring in the last six years. Growers seeded 2.18 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2020, down 12 percent from 2019. New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures are normally harvested for the first time in the year following planting.

All **hay stored** on United States farms as of December 1, 2020 totaled 84.0 million tons, down 1 percent from December 1, 2019, which is the third lowest December 1 stocks since 1977. Disappearance from May 1, 2020 - December 1, 2020 totaled 63.2 million tons, up 7 percent from the same period in 2019.

Canola production in 2020 was estimated at 3.45 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2019 and represents the second largest total on record for the Nation. The average yield, at a record high 1,931 pounds per acre, is up 150 pounds from last year's average. Planted area was estimated at 1.83 million acres, 11 percent below the previous year's acreage. Harvested area, at 1.79 million acres, was down 6 percent from 2019.

Production of **flaxseed** in 2020 totaled 5.71 million bushels, up 1 percent from the previous year's revised production. Harvested area totaled 296,000 acres in 2020, up 4 percent from the previous year's revised harvested acreage. The average United States yield for 2020, at 19.3 bushels per acre, was down 0.5 bushel from 2019.

Production of **safflower** in 2020, at a record low of 148 million pounds, was down 23 percent from 2019. Growers planted 136,000 acres in 2020, a decrease of 18 percent from the previous year and represents the second lowest planted area for the Nation since records began in 1991. Harvested area for the Nation, at 126,700 acres, was down 16 percent from 2019 and is the second lowest harvested area on record. The average yield for the Nation, at 1,167 pounds per acre, declined 106 pounds from the 2019 average yield per acre and represents the third lowest yield on record.

Sugarbeet production for 2020 was estimated at 33.6 million tons, up 17 percent from the previous year's revised production. Growers in the 11 major sugarbeet-producing States planted 1.16 million acres, up 3 percent from the 2019 revised area. Harvested area, at 1.14 million acres, was up 17 percent from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 29.4 tons per acre, was up 0.2 ton from last year.

Production of **all chickpeas** was estimated at 4.27 million cwt, down 32 percent from 2019. Area planted for all chickpeas for the 2020 crop year was estimated at 269,800 acres, down 40 percent from the previous year. Area harvested was estimated at 262,900 acres, 35 percent below 2019. Small chickpea area planted was estimated at 48,400 acres, down 54 percent from 2019. Area harvested for small chickpeas was estimated at 47,900 acres, a 48 percent decline from 2019. Area planted for large chickpeas in 2020 was estimated at 221,400 acres, a 36 percent decline from the previous year. Large chickpea area harvested was estimated at 215,000 acres, a 31 percent decline from 2019.

Production of **lentils** is estimated at 7.41 million cwt, up 40 percent from a year ago. Planted area, at 528,000 acres, is up 9 percent from last year, while harvested acreage, at 514,000 acres, is up 21 percent from 2019. The average yield is expected to be 1,442 pounds per acre, up 192 pounds from last year.

Production of **dry edible peas** was estimated at 21.7 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year. Planted area, at 1.00 million acres, and harvested area, at 973,000 acres, decreased by 9 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The average United States yield is expected to total 2,234 pounds per acre, up 111 pounds from 2019. This is the highest yield on record since 2004.

Winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2021 is estimated at 32.0 million acres, up 5 percent from 2020 and up 2 percent from 2019. This represents the fourth lowest United States acreage on record.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2020 Summary* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.