



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 2021

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Montana, based on conditions as of May 1, 2021, is forecast at 80.85 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 6 percent above last year's production of 75.99 million bushels but 15 percent below the 95.00 million bushel crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, forecast at 1.65 million acres, is 160,000 acres more than a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 49.0 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels per acre from last year's record high yield.

As of May 2, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 6 percent excellent, compared with 4 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 7 percent excellent last year.

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches as of May 1, 2021 totaled 970,000 tons, down 7 percent from stocks of 1.04 million tons on hand last year. Hay production for 2020 was 5.91 million tons, 5 percent lower than 2019 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021 was 3.83 million tons, compared with 4.06 million tons the same period a year earlier.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.28 billion bushels, up 10 percent from 2020. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 52.1 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from last year's average yield of 50.9 bushels per acre. Area expected to be harvested for grain is forecast at 24.6 million acres, up 7 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 731 million bushels, is up 11 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 332 million bushels, is up 25 percent from 2020. White Winter, at 220 million bushels, is down 10 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 14.2 million bushels are Hard White and 206 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on United States farms as of May 1, 2021 totaled 18.0 million tons, down 12 percent from May 1, 2020. Disappearance from December 1, 2020 - May 1, 2021 totaled 66.0 million tons, up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

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