



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 2021

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **canola** production in Montana is forecast at 158.40 million pounds, down 34 percent from the 2020 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 record high 185,000 acres in 2021, up 30,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested is expected to total a record high 176,000 acres, up 27,000 acres from the 149,000 acres harvested last year. Canola yield is forecast at 900 pounds per acre, down from 1,620 pounds per acre last year.

**Alfalfa hay** production in Montana is forecast at 2.22 million tons, down 47 percent from the 4.18 million tons produced in 2020. If realized, this would be the lowest alfalfa hay production since 2.09 million tons in 1988. Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.85 million acres of alfalfa hay this year, down 50,000 acres from 2020. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 1.20 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 2.20 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 1.40 tons per acre. If realized, this would tie the record low alfalfa hay yield set in 1935. Producers expect to harvest 970,000 acres of **other hay** in 2021, up 10,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.16 million tons, down 33 percent from a year ago. If realized, this would be the lowest other hay production since 1.12 million tons in 2012. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.20 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 1.80 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 1.10 tons per acre. If realized, this would be the lowest other hay yield since 1.00 ton per acre in 1988.

**Sugarbeet** production in Montana is forecast at 1.38 million tons, up 16 percent from the 1.19 million tons produced in 2020. Growers expect to harvest 43,500 acres this year, compared with 38,000 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 31.6 tons per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast and up from last year's yield of 31.3 tons per acre. As of October 3, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 10 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Harvest of sugarbeets was estimated at 6 percent complete, compared to 6 percent last year.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The first **canola** production forecast for 2021 is 2.35 billion pounds, down 32 percent from the 2020 revised production of 3.45 billion pounds. If realized, this will be the lowest production for the United States since 2013. Area planted for the Nation, at a record high 2.15 million acres, is up 7 percent from the June estimate and up 18 percent from last year's area. Canola farmers expect to harvest a record high 2.10 million acres, up 8 percent from June and up 18 percent from 2020. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data. The October yield forecast, at 1,119 pounds per acre, is 812 pounds below last year's yield and will represent the lowest average yield on record for the Nation, if realized.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2021 is forecast at 48.2 million tons, up 1 percent from the August forecast, but down 9 percent from 2020. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.99 tons per acre, up 0.02 ton from the August forecast, but down 0.28 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 16.1 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report, but down 1 percent from 2020. Production of **other hay** is forecast at 72.3 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast, but down 2 percent from 2020. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 2.04 tons per acre, up 0.04 ton from the August forecast, but down 0.01 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 35.4 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report, but down 2 percent from 2020.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2021 crop year is forecast at 35.7 million tons, up 3 percent from last month, and up 6 percent from last year. Area planted, at 1.16 million acres, is up slightly from the previous estimate but down slightly from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.15 million acres, up slightly from the previous estimate and up 1 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 31.0 tons per acre, up 0.9 ton from last month and up 1.6 tons from last year.

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