



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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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2021

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Montana growers intend to plant 100,000 acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2021, down 15,000 acres, or 13 percent from last year's plantings, according to the March 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The area expected to be seeded to **oats**, at 60,000 acres, is down 10,000 acres from a year ago. Growers intend to plant 950,000 acres of **barley** in 2021, up 60,000 acres from last year's actual plantings.

All wheat acreage is expected to total 5.36 million acres for 2021. **Winter wheat** seeded last fall for harvest in 2021 is estimated at 1.75 million acres, up 200,000 acres from the 2020 crop. Growers intend to seed 710,000 acres of **Durum wheat** this year, up 20,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to seed 2.90 million acres of **spring wheat** this year, down 400,000 acres from last year. **Hay** producers in the state intend to harvest 3.00 million acres this year. This is up 140,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2020. Montana **canola** producers intend to plant a record high 160,000 acres in 2021, up 5,000 acres from 2020. **Flaxseed** producers intend to plant 115,000 acres in 2021, up 10,000 acres from last year.

The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to be down 1,600 acres from last year's actual plantings to 42,000 acres. All **garbanzo beans** (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 130,000 acres, down 13,700 acres from 2020. The acreage of small chickpeas is expected to total 35,000 acres and the acreage of large chickpeas is expected to total 95,000 acres this year.

Lentil acres planted for 2021 are expected to total 440,000 acres, up 70,000 acres from last year. All **dry edible pea** area planted, which includes Austrian winter peas, is expected to total 500,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2021 is estimated at 91.1 million acres, up less than 1 percent or an increase of 325,000 acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be up or unchanged in 24 of the 48 estimating States.

Area expected to be seeded to **oats** for the 2021 crop year is estimated at 2.49 million acres, down 17 percent from 2020. If realized, the United States planted area will be the second lowest on record.

Producers intend to seed 2.59 million acres of **barley** for the 2021 crop year, down 1 percent from the previous year. If realized, this will represent the fourth lowest planted acreage on record.

All wheat planted area for 2021 is estimated at 46.4 million acres, up 5 percent from 2020. This represents the fourth lowest all wheat planted area since records began in 1919. The 2021 **winter wheat** planted area, at 33.1 million acres, is up 9 percent from last year and up 3 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 23.2 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.42 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.48 million acres are White Winter. Area expected to be planted to **other spring wheat** for 2021 is estimated at 11.7 million acres, down 4 percent from 2020. Of this total, about 10.9 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Durum** planted area for 2021 is expected to total 1.54 million acres, down 9 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 51.7 million acres of **all hay** in 2021, down 1 percent from 2020. If realized, this will represent the lowest total hay harvested area since 1908.

Canola producers intend to plant a record high 2.12 million acres in 2021, up 16 percent from last year's planted area.

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Flaxseed growers intend to plant 400,000 acres of flaxseed in 2021, an increase of 31 percent from 2020 planted acres.

Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2021 crop year is estimated at 1.17 million acres, up 1 percent from 2020.

Chickpea growers intend to plant 290,000 acres of chickpeas in 2021, up 7 percent from the previous year. Small chickpea expected planted area is estimated at 59,000 acres, up 22 percent from 2020. Area expected to be planted for large chickpeas in 2021 is estimated at 231,000 acres, a 4 percent increase from the previous year.

Lentil growers intend to plant 611,000 acres in 2021, up 16 percent from 2020. **Dry edible pea** growers intend to plant 893,000 acres in 2021, down 11 percent from 2020.

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