



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969
Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2023

Contact: Eric Sommer
(800) 392-3202

CROP PRODUCTION – MAY 1, 2023

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Montana, based on conditions as of May 1, 2023, is forecast at 77.00 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 30 percent above last year's production of 59.40 million bushels, and 44 percent above the 53.63-million-bushel crop produced two years ago. Harvested area, forecast at 1.75 million acres, is 50,000 acres below last year. Average yield is forecast at 44.0 bushels per acre, up 11.0 bushels per acre from last year's yield.

As of April 30, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 46 percent good, compared with 25 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 11 percent good, and 1 percent excellent last year.

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches as of May 1, 2023, totaled 450,000 tons, unchanged from stocks on hand last year. Hay production for 2022 totaled 4.12 million tons, 14 percent higher than production in 2021. Disappearance from December 1, 2022 – May 1, 2023, was 2.80 million tons, compared with 2.45 million tons the same period a year earlier.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.13 billion bushels, up 2 percent from 2022. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 44.7 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from last year's average yield of 47.0 bushels per acre. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed is forecast at 25.3 million acres, up 8 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 514 million bushels, is down 3 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 406 million bushels, is up 21 percent from 2022. White Winter, at 210 million bushels, is down 11 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 10.2 million bushels are Hard White and 200 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on United States farms as of May 1, 2023, totaled 14.5 million tons, down 13 percent from May 1, 2022. The May 1 hay stock level for the United States represents the second lowest amount stored since records began in 1950. Disappearance from December 1, 2022 – May 1, 2023, totaled 57.4 million tons, down 8 percent from the same period a year earlier.

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