The total acres of barley seeded in Montana in 2014 are reported at 940,000 acres, down from 990,000 acres planted in 2013. Montana ranks first in planted barley acreage in the United States for 2014, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. The top variety seeded in Montana for the seventh year in a row was AC Metcalfe, followed by Hockett, Haxby, and Moravian 115.

### TOP MALTING VARIETIES

**AC Metcalfe** continues to be the leading malting barley variety for the seventh year in a row. Montana growers seeded 303,700 acres (32.3 percent of total acres of barley planted in Montana). AC Metcalfe is a two-row malting barley developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, located in Brandon, Manitoba. It has an 8 percent higher yield, but matures one day later than Harrington. It is resistant to loose smut, and is moderately resistant to the spot-form of net blotch, surface-borne smuts, and common root rot. It has plump kernels and high test weight, but it is susceptible to scald and septoria.

**Hockett** is the second leading malting barley variety planted in 2014. Montana producers planted 104,600 acres, accounting for 11.1 percent of the total barley acres planted this year. Hockett is a two-rowed dry land variety that was developed by Montana State University (MSU) in 2008. When compared to Harrington, Hockett has a higher yield and better malt quality given dry land conditions. It is susceptible to lodging and stripe rust.

**Moravian 115** ranked third among malting barley varieties seeded for the 2014 crop year. A total of 83,300 acres or 8.9 percent of all barley is planted to this variety. This is a two-rowed variety bred by Coors Brewing Company. It is a small-stature, high yielding variety with high extract and moderate protein. It is a semi-dwarf barley and typically does not lodge under normal production conditions.

**Conrad** is the fourth most common malting barley variety seeded in 2014. A total of 29,900 acres were planted, accounting for 3.2 percent of the total acres seeded. Conrad is a two-row variety released by Busch Agricultural Resources in 2005. This variety is a medium-tall plant with fair straw strength and a medium late maturity. Conrad has malt protein levels similar to Merit and Harrington. Its resistance to both scald and net blotch is slightly better than Harrington and is resistant to rust stripe.

### TOP FORAGE VARIETIES

**Haxby** continued to be the top forage barley variety planted for the last fifteen years. Montana farmers planted 73,900 acres, accounting for 7.9 percent of the total acres seeded in 2014. It was developed cooperatively by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA, and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station in 1989. It is a two-rowed, hooded, white-kernel spring hay barley. Compared to Horsford hay barley, Haxby is 3 days later in heading and similar in plant height and percent lodging. Haxby is higher in hay yield than Horsford, but they are similar in grain yield.

**Lavina** is the second most common forage barley variety planted in 2014 with 18,700 acres or 2.0 percent of the total barley planted. It is a two-rowed, hooded hay barley developed by MSU, and is a cross between Haxby and Baronesse varieties. Lavina was released as a replacement for Haxby with the attributes of slightly higher forage production potential and much higher grain production potential.

### TOP FEED VARIETIES

**Haxby** remained the top feed barley variety planted for feed in 2014 for the eighth year in a row. Producers planted 92,300 acres in 2014 down from 113,000 in 2013. This variety accounts for 9.8 percent of the total barley acres planted in Montana. Haxby is a two-rowed barley developed by MSU. Yields are equal to Baronesse and Eslick and are higher than Gallatin and Valier varieties. It is medium height and maturity, and has superior performance in low moisture conditions. Haxby has high test weights in both dry land and irrigated areas.

**Champion** is the second most common Montana feed barley variety in 2014. Montana growers planted 14,900 acres, accounting for 1.6 percent of the 2014 planted acres. Champion was developed by WestBred LLC, Bozeman, Montana in 1997. It is a cross between Baronesse and Camas. It is a two-row spring barley that has a semi-erect to intermediate growth habit. Champion has fair to good resistance to lodging and shattering. It also shows strengths to neck breaking and drought.