



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
UTAH FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY - 2018

UTAH HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018 **corn** for grain crop is estimated at 4.00 million bushels, 14 percent above last year's production of 3.52 million bushels, according to the December 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The average yield of 182.0 bushels per acre is 6.0 bushels per acre above the yield achieved last year. Area harvested for grain in 2018, at 22,000 acres, is 2,000 acres above last year. Acreage cut for **corn silage** is estimated at 45,000 acres, down 11,000 acres from last year, with production estimated at 1.04 million tons compared with 1.40 million tons produced last year.

Utah's **barley** seeded area, at 21,000 acres, is down 4,000 acres from last year, and the lowest on record. Harvested area, at 16,000 acres, is down 2,000 acres from 2017. Barley yield, at 86.0 bushels per acre is up 11.0 bushels per acre from last year. Barley production in 2018 is estimated at 1.38 million bushels, up 2 percent from the previous year.

All wheat production in Utah, estimated at 5.36 million bushels, is down 14 percent from 2017. All wheat yield is 52.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from a year ago. **Winter wheat** producers seeded 120,000 acres in the fall of 2017 for harvest in 2018, unchanged from the acres seeded for the previous year's crop, but equal to the record low seeded acres. Acreage harvested for grain decreased 14,000 acres from last year to a record low 94,000 acres in 2018. Winter wheat production is estimated at 4.89 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year. Winter wheat yield, at 52.0 bushels per acre, is unchanged from last year. **Spring wheat** seedings, at 10,000 acres, are down 4,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested totaled 9,000 acres, down from 12,000 acres harvested last year. Spring wheat production is estimated at 468,000 bushels, down 25 percent from last year. Spring wheat yield, at 52.0 bushels per acre, is unchanged from last year.

All hay production for 2018 is estimated at 2.20 million tons, down 17 percent from the 2017 total. **Alfalfa hay** production is estimated at 1.85 million tons from 500,000 acres harvested, down 460,000 tons from 2017. Average yield for the 2018 crop is 3.70 tons per acre, 0.50 ton per acre below last year. **All other hay** production totaled 345,000 tons from 150,000 acres harvested, up 19,000 tons from 2017. The average yield of 2.30 tons per acre is up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Utah are estimated at 50,000 acres, down 17 percent from 2017.

As of December 1, producers in Utah were storing 980,000 tons of **all hay**, down 16 percent from the 1.17 million tons stored last year.

Production of **safflower** in 2018 is 10.92 million pounds, compared with 14.85 million pounds in 2017. Planted acres are 15,000, down 2,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are 13,000, compared with 16,500 acres in 2017. Safflower yields averaged 840 pounds per acre in 2018, down 60 pounds per acre from last year.

Winter wheat seedings last fall for the 2019 crop year are estimated at 125,000 acres, up 4 percent from 2018.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in 2018 was estimated at 14.4 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the 2017 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at 176.4 bushels per acre, 0.2 bushel below the 2017 record yield of 176.6 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 81.7 million acres, down 1 percent from the 2017 estimate. **Corn silage** production was estimated at 121 million tons for 2018, down 5 percent from 2017. The United States silage yield was estimated at 19.9 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from 2017. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.11 million acres, down 4 percent from a year ago.

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Barley production was estimated at 153 million bushels, up 8 percent from the 2017 total of 142 million bushels. Average yield, at 77.4 bushels per acre, was up 4.4 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.54 million acres in 2018, up 2 percent from 2017. Harvested area, at 1.98 million acres, was up 1 percent from 2017.

All wheat production totaled 1.88 billion bushels in 2018, up 8 percent from the 2017 total of 1.74 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 39.6 million acres, up 5 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 47.6 bushels per acre, up 1.3 bushels from the previous year. **Winter wheat** production for 2018 totaled 1.18 billion bushels, down 7 percent from the 2017 total of 1.27 billion bushels. The United States yield, at 47.9 bushels per acre, was down 2.3 bushels from 2017. Area harvested for grain was estimated at a record low 24.7 million acres, down 2 percent from the previous year. **Other spring wheat** production for 2018 was estimated at 623 million bushels, up 50 percent from the 2017 total of 416 million bushels. Harvested area totaled 12.9 million acres, up 27 percent from 2017. The United States yield was estimated at a record high 48.3 bushels per acre, 7.3 bushels above 2017.

Production of **all dry hay** for 2018 was estimated at 124 million tons, down 4 percent from the revised 2017 total. Area harvested was estimated at 52.8 million acres, up less than one percent from 2017. The average yield, at 2.34 tons per acre, was down 0.09 ton from the previous year. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in 2018 was estimated at 52.6 million tons, down 6 percent from the revised 2017 total. Harvested area, at 16.6 million acres, was 2 percent below the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 3.17 tons per acre, down 0.11 ton from 2017. Production of **all other hay** in 2018 totaled 71.0 million tons, down 2 percent from the revised 2017 total. Harvested area, at 36.2 million acres, was up 1 percent from the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 1.96 tons per acre, down 0.06 ton from 2017. Growers seeded 2.22 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2018, up less than 1 percent from 2017. The new seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures will normally be harvested for the first time in the year following planting.

All hay stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2018 totaled 79.1 million tons, down 6 percent from the previous December. Disappearance from May 1, 2018 - December 1, 2018 totaled 59.9 million tons, compared with 68.2 million tons for the same period a year earlier. This marks the lowest December 1 hay stocks since the drought of 2012 and second lowest since 1977.

Production of **safflower** in 2018, at 236 million pounds, was up 34 percent from 2017. Growers planted 167,500 acres in 2018, an increase of 2 percent from 2017. Harvested area, at 156,400 acres, was up 8 percent from the previous year. Average yield, at 1,511 pounds per acre, increased 299 pounds from 2017.

Winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2019 is estimated at 31.3 million acres, down 4 percent from 2018 and down 4 percent from 2017. This represents the second lowest United States acreage on record.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2018 Summary* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.