



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



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Contact: Eric Sommer
(800) 392-3202

CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 1, 2023

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **canola** production in Montana is forecast at 144.15 million pounds, down 16 percent from the 172.01 million pound crop produced in 2022, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Producers planted an estimated 165,000 acres in 2023, down 15,000 acres from last year. Harvested area is expected to total 155,000 acres, down 12,000 acres from the 167,000 acres harvested last year. Canola yield is forecast at 930 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds last year's final yield. As of October 1, producers had harvested 85 percent of the crop.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.60 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture hay** this year, an increase of 200,000 acres from 2022. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 3.36 million tons, down 5 percent from the August 1 forecast but up 17 percent from the 2.87 million tons produced last year. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 2.10 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from the August 1 forecast but up 0.05 ton from the final 2022 yield. Producers expect to harvest 1.05 million acres of **other hay** in 2023, up 160,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.89 million tons, up 6 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 52 percent from the 1.25 million tons produced last year. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.80 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from the August 1 forecast and up 0.4 ton from the final 2022 yield.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 792,000 tons, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but down 23 percent from the 1.02 million tons produced in 2022. Harvested area, forecast at 23,500 acres, is down 10,000 acres from last year. Yields are expected to average 33.7 tons per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but up from 30.5 tons a year ago. As of October 1, the sugarbeet crop was rated 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Producers had harvested 8 percent of the crop, compared with 4 percent last year and the 5-year average of 7 percent.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The first **canola** production forecast for 2023 is a record high 4.01 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the 2022 revised production of 3.82 billion pounds. Area planted for the Nation, at a record high 2.35 million acres, is up 3 percent from the June estimate and up 6 percent from last year's area. Canola farmers expect to harvest a record high 2.30 million acres, up 3 percent from June and up 6 percent from 2022. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data. The October yield forecast, at 1,741 pounds per acre, is 21 pounds below last year.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2023 is forecast at 52.7 million tons, up 8 percent from the August forecast and up 10 percent from 2022. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.37 tons per acre, up 0.24 ton from the August forecast and up 0.15 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 15.7 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report but up 5 percent from 2022. Production of **other hay** is forecast at 70.1 million tons, up less than 1 percent from the August forecast and up 8 percent from 2022. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 1.93 tons per acre, up 0.01 ton from the August forecast and up 0.06 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 36.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report but up 5 percent from 2022.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2023 crop year is forecast at 34.7 million tons, down 1 percent from last month but up 7 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.12 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 2 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 31.1 tons per acre, down 0.4 ton from last month but up 2.5 tons from last year.

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