



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 1, 2024

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Beginning this year, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reviewed all available data during preparation for the August *Crop Production* report. These data included survey data and the latest information from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA), for planted and harvested acreage for barley, corn, cotton, dry edible beans, oats, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sugarbeets, Durum wheat, other spring wheat, and winter wheat. As such, **corn** planted area in Montana is estimated at 135,000 acres, up 23 percent, or 25,000 acres, from the June *Acreage* report but unchanged from 2023. Harvested area, forecast at 72,000 acres, is up 13,000 acres from June and up 4,000 acres from last year.

Based on August 1 conditions, **oat** production in Montana is forecast at 1.45 million bushels, according to the August 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is up 35 percent from July 1 and up 78 percent from last year's 814,000-bushel crop. Planted area is estimated at 70,000 acres, up 17 percent, or 10,000 acres, from the June *Acreage* report, and up 5,000 acres from last year. Area intended for harvest, at 29,000 acres, is up 4,000 acres from June and up 7,000 acres from last year. Oat yield is forecast at 50.0 bushels per acre, up 7.0 bushels from July 1 and up 13.0 bushels from last year. As of August 4, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 6 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Oat harvest was 19 percent complete, compared with 16 percent last year and a 5-year average of 11 percent.

Barley production is forecast at 35.50 million bushels, down 15 percent from the July 1 forecast and down 29 percent from last year's 49.74-million-bushel crop. Planted area is estimated at 920,000 acres, down 10 percent, or 100,000 acres, from the June *Acreage* report, and down 270,000 acres from last year. Area intended for harvest, at 710,000 acres, is down 80,000 acres from June and down 305,000 acres from last year. Barley yield is forecast at 50.0 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from July 1 but 1.0 bushel above last year's final yield. As of August 4, the barley crop condition was rated 11 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Barley harvest was 12 percent complete, compared with 25 percent last year and a 5-year average of 13 percent.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 96.90 million bushels, up 6 percent from July 1 and up 13 percent from the 85.68-million-bushel crop produced last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.95 million acres, unchanged from the June *Acreage* report, but up 100,000 acres from last year. Area intended for harvest, at 1.90 million acres, unchanged from June but up 220,000 acres from last year. Winter wheat yield is forecast at 51.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from July 1 but unchanged from last year. As of August 4, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Winter wheat harvest was 51 percent complete, compared with 36 percent last year and a 5-year average of 38 percent.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 20.40 million bushels, down 25 percent from July 1 and down 3 percent from the 20.93-million-bushel crop produced last year. Planted area is estimated at 880,000 acres, unchanged from the June *Acreage* report, but up 175,000 acres from last year. Area intended for harvest, at 850,000 acres, is unchanged from June but up 175,000 acres from last year. Durum wheat yield is forecast at 24.0 bushels per acre, down 8.0 bushels from July 1 and down 7.0 bushels from last year. As of August 4, the Durum wheat crop condition was rated 7 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Durum wheat harvest was 8 percent complete, compared with 10 percent last year and a 5-year average of 5 percent.

Spring wheat production in Montana is forecast at 76.89 million bushels, down 6 percent from July 1 and down 4 percent from the 80.10-million-bushel crop produced last year. Planted area is estimated at 2.45 million acres, unchanged from the June *Acreage* report, but down 250,000 acres from last year. Area intended for harvest, at 2.33 million acres, is unchanged from June but down 340,000 acres from last year. Spring wheat yield is forecast at 33.0 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from July 1 but 3.0 bushels above last. As of August 4, the spring wheat crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Spring wheat harvest was 6 percent complete, compared with 16 percent last year and a 5-year average of 13 percent.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.83 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures dry hay** this year, up 180,000 acres from 2023. Alfalfa production is forecast at 3.48 million tons, up less than 1 percent from the 3.47 million tons produced last year. Alfalfa hay yields are expected to average 1.90 tons per acre, down 0.20 ton from 2023. Growers expect to harvest 1.10 million acres of

other dry hay in 2024, up 50,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.76 million tons, down 4 percent from the 1.84 million tons produced a year ago. Other dry hay yields are expected to average 1.60 tons per acre, down 0.15 ton from a year ago.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 732,000 tons, down less than 1 percent from the 736,000 tons produced in 2023. Planted area is estimated at 25,000 acres, up 4 percent, or 1,000 acres, from the June *Acreage* report, and up 1,300 acres from last year. Growers expect to harvest 24,000 acres this year, up 500 acres from June and up 700 acres from 2023. Yields are expected to average 30.5 tons per acre, down from 31.6 tons a year ago. As of August 4, the sugarbeet crop was rated 7 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn acreage updates were made based on a thorough review of all available data. Total planted area, at 90.7 million acres, is down 1 percent from the previous estimate and down 4 percent from 2023. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 82.7 million acres, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 4 percent from last year. Production for grain is forecast at 15.1 billion bushels, which if realized would be the third highest production for grain on record for the United States. Based on conditions as of August 1, the yield is forecast at a record high 183.1 bushels per acre, up 5.8 bushels from last year's final estimate of 177.3 bushels.

Oat acreage updates were made based on a thorough review of all available data. Total planted area, at 2.35 million acres, is up 2 percent from the previous estimate and up 3 percent from comparable States in 2023. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 900,000 acres, up 3 percent from the previous forecast and up 13 percent from comparable States in 2023. Production is forecast at a record high 67.6 million bushels for the United States, up 23 percent from comparable States in 2023. Based on conditions as of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 75.1 bushels per acres, up 6.3 bushels from the 2023 average yield for comparable States.

Barley production is forecast at 149 million bushels, down 20 percent from 2023. Acreage updates were made following a thorough review of all available data. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 79.1 bushels per acre, up 6.7 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 1.88 million acres, down 7 percent from the *Acreage* report released on June 28, 2024, and down 26 percent from last year.

All wheat production for grain is forecast at 1.98 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the previous forecast but up 9 percent from 2023. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 52.2 bushels per harvested acre, up 0.4 bushel from the previous forecast and up 3.6 bushels from 2023. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 37.9 million acres, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 2 percent from 2023.

Winter wheat acreage updates were made based on a thorough review of all available data. Total planted area, at 33.5 million acres, is down 1 percent from the *Acreage* report released on June 28, 2024, and down 9 percent from 2023. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 25.6 million acres, down 1 percent from the *Acreage* report but up 4 percent from last year in comparable States. Production is forecast at 1.36 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 9 percent from 2023 in comparable States. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 53.2 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from last month and up 2.7 bushels from last year's average yield in comparable States.

Hard Red Winter production, at 776 million bushels, is up 2 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 342 million bushels, is down less than 1 percent from the July forecast. White Winter, at 243 million bushels, is up 4 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 19.3 million bushels are Hard White and 224 million bushels are Soft White.

Durum wheat acreage updates were made based on a thorough review of all available data. Total planted area, at 2.09 million acres, is down 4 percent from the *Acreage* report released on June 28, 2024, but up 24 percent from 2023. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 2.02 million acres, down 4 percent from the *Acreage* report, but up 27 percent from 2023 in comparable States. Production is forecast at 76.9 million bushels, down 14 percent from the previous forecast, but up 31 percent from 2023 in comparable States. The United States yield is forecast at 38.1 bushels per acre, down 4.6 bushels from the previous forecast, but up 1.3 bushels from last year's average yield in comparable States.

Other spring wheat acreage updates were made based on a thorough review of all available data. Total planted area, at 10.7 million acres, is down 5 percent from the *Acreage* report released on June 28, 2024, and down 4 percent from 2023. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed is expected to total 10.3 million acres, down 5 percent from the *Acreage* report, and down 6 percent from 2023. Production is forecast at 544 million bushels, down 6 percent from the previous forecast, but up 8 percent from 2023. The United States yield is forecast at 52.6 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from the previous forecast, but up 6.6 bushels from a year ago. If realized, the United States yield would be a record high.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2024 is forecast at 52.4 million tons, up 5 percent from 2023. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.35 tons per acre, up 0.16 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 15.6 million

acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report, but down slightly from 2023. Production of **other hay** is forecast at 74.5 million tons, up 8 percent from 2023. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 2.07 tons per acre, up 0.22 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 35.9 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report, but down 3 percent from 2023.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2024 crop year is forecast at 35.7 million tons, up 1 percent from last year. Acreage updates were made based on a thorough review of all available data. Total planted area, at 1.11 million acres, is down slightly from the previous estimate and down 3 percent from 2023. Producers expect to harvest 1.09 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 32.9 tons per acre, up 1.7 tons from last year.

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