



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2024

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CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 1, 2024

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **canola** production in Montana is forecast at 184.50 million pounds, down 19 percent from the 227.20-million-pound crop produced in 2023, 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 215,000 acres in 2024, an increase of 50,000 acres from last year. Harvested area is expected to total 205,000 acres, up from the 160,000 acres harvested last year. Canola yield is forecast at 900 pounds per acre, down 520 pounds last year's final yield. As of September 29, producers had harvested 86 percent of the crop, compared with 83 percent last year.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.83 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** this year, an increase of 180,000 acres from 2023. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 3.48 million tons, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but up less than 1 percent from the 3.47 million tons produced last year. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 1.90 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but down 0.2 ton from the final 2023 yield. Producers expect to harvest 1.10 million acres of **other hay** in 2024, up 50,000 acres from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 1.87 million tons, up 6 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 2 percent from the 1.84 million tons produced last year. Other hay yield is expected to average 1.70 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from the August 1 forecast but down 0.05 ton from the final 2023 yield.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 780,000 tons, up less than 1 percent from the September 1 forecast and up 6 percent from the 736,000 tons produced in 2023. Harvested area, forecast at 24,000 acres, is unchanged from last month but up 700 acres from last year. Yields are expected to average 32.5 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from the September 1 forecast and up from 31.6 tons a year ago.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The first **canola** production forecast for 2024 is a record high 4.93 billion pounds, up 14 percent from the 2023 revised production in comparable States. Area planted for the Nation, at a record high 2.76 million acres, is up 4 percent from the June estimate and up 14 percent from last year's area in comparable States. Canola farmers expect to harvest a record high 2.72 million acres, up 4 percent from June and up 13 percent from 2023 in comparable States. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data. The October yield forecast, at 1,811 pounds per acre, is 18 pounds above last year's revised yield in comparable States and will be the fifth highest yield on record, if realized.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2024 is forecast at 54.0 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 8 percent from 2023. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.10 ton from the August forecast and up 0.26 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 15.6 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report but down slightly from 2023. Record high yields are forecast for California, Oregon, and Texas. Production of **other hay** is forecast at 72.9 million tons, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up 6 percent from 2023. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 2.03 tons per acre, down 0.04 ton from the August forecast but up 0.18 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 35.6 million tons, up 1 percent from last month and up 1 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.08 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 5 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 33.1 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from last month and up 1.9 tons from last year.

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