



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE

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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



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2015 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Alfalfa seed production in Montana for 2015 is estimated at 4.94 million pounds, an increase of 46 percent, or 1,549,000 pounds from last year's production estimate. Harvested acreage totaled 12,000 acres, an increase of 2,000 acres from 2014. Of that, 7,200 harvested acres were irrigated, compared with 4,800 non-irrigated acres. On average, producers harvested 412 pounds of alfalfa seed per acre, up from 340 pounds in 2014. The irrigated yield, at 600 pounds per acre, was up 160 pounds from last year, while the non-irrigated yield increased from 105 pounds per acre in 2014 to 130 pounds per acre in 2015.

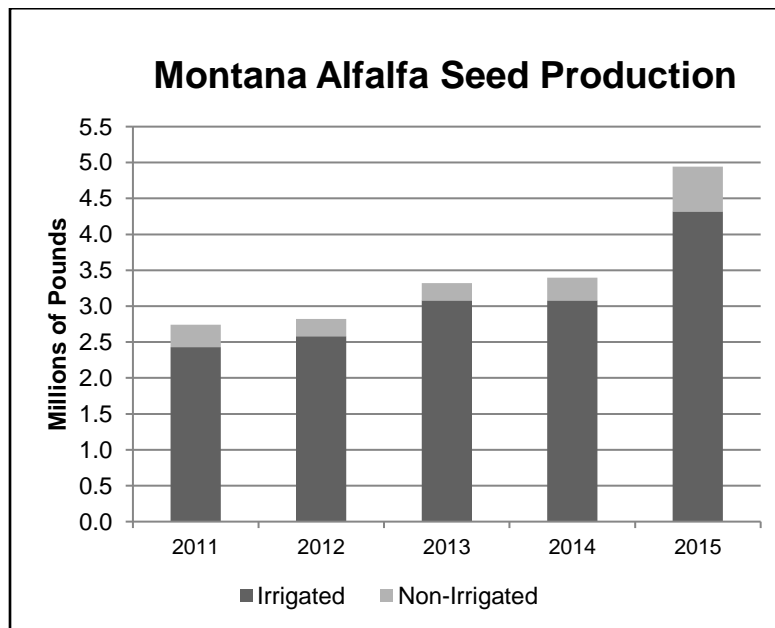
Producers who used leaf cutter bees used an average of 2.9 gallons of bees per acre, a decrease of 0.2 gallon from the rate of bees used in 2014. Leaf cutter bees were used on 92 percent of the reported irrigated acreage this year, compared with 90 percent last year.

Proprietary varieties of alfalfa seed made up 94 percent of production in 2015, while common varieties accounted for 6 percent. Of the proprietary varieties cleaned, 98.8 percent of the seed cleaned was certified.

The average price received for the 2015 crop was \$2.46 per pound, up \$0.10 from last year's average price.

Montana Leaf Cutter Bees 2012-2015

Year	Total	Irrigated	
	Gallons of Bees per Acre	Percent of Acreage	Gallons Used per Acre
2012	3.3	95%	3.4
2013	2.7	82%	2.8
2014	3.1	90%	3.1
2015	2.9	92%	2.9



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Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value for Montana from 2004-2015 ^{1/}

Year	TOTAL					IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total	Price/Pound	Total Value	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total	Harvested Acres	Yield	Total
		Pounds					Pounds	Pounds			
2004	5,800	382	2,214,000	\$0.99	\$2,191,860	3,900	532	2,075,000	1,900	73	139,000
2005	6,100	413	2,519,000	\$1.13	\$2,846,470	5,100	450	2,295,000	1,000	224	224,000
2006	10,700	399	4,270,000	\$1.13	\$4,825,100	6,500	518	3,367,000	4,200	215	903,000
2007	12,200	360	4,391,000	\$1.34	\$5,883,940	7,000	533	3,731,000	5,200	127	660,000
2008	8,900	383	3,406,000	\$1.95	\$6,641,700	6,100	507	3,093,000	2,800	112	314,000
2009	7,100	459	3,259,000	\$1.94	\$6,322,460	5,900	499	2,944,000	1,200	262	314,000
2010	7,000	465	3,258,000	\$1.66	\$5,408,280	6,600	486	3,208,000	400	125	50,000
2011	6,600	415	2,742,000	\$2.02	\$5,538,840	4,900	496	2,430,000	1,700	183	311,000
2012	7,000	403	2,820,000	\$2.11	\$5,950,200	4,300	600	2,580,000	2,700	89	240,000
2013	9,400	353	3,320,000	\$1.54	\$5,112,800	7,000	440	3,080,000	2,400	100	240,000
2014	10,000	340	3,395,000	\$2.36	\$8,012,200	7,000	440	3,080,000	3,000	105	315,000
2015	12,000	412	4,944,000	\$2.46	\$12,162,240	7,200	600	4,320,000	4,800	130	624,000

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2015 ^{1/}

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds	Pounds			
Northwest	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	--	--	--
North Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Northeast	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Southwest	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	--	--	--
South Central	4,100	623	2,556,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Southeast	4,800	245	1,174,000	800	797	638,000	4,000	134	536,000
Other	3,100	392	1,214,000	6,400	575	3,682,000	800	110	88,000
Montana	12,000	412	4,944,000	7,200	600	4,320,000	4,800	130	624,000

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

(D) - Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations

Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2014 ^{1/}

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds	Pounds			
Northwest	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Central	700	331	232,000	700	331	232,000	--	--	--
Northeast	400	213	85,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Central	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Southwest	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
South Central	3,700	527	1,950,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Southeast	2,700	215	580,000	900	439	395,000	1,800	103	185,000
Other	2,500	219	548,000	5,400	454	2,453,000	1,200	108	130,000
Montana	10,000	340	3,395,000	7,000	440	3,080,000	3,000	105	315,000

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