



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



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## CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 1, 2023

### NEW MEXICO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **all cotton** production in New Mexico is expected to total 74,000 480-lb bales, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is up 3 percent from the September 1 forecast but down 16 percent from last year.

Harvested area of **upland cotton** is estimated at 22,000 acres, unchanged from the September *Crop Production* report but down 8,000 acres from 2022. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 44,000 480-lb bales of upland cotton, down 27 percent from last year. Upland yield is forecast at 960 pounds per acre, up 44 pounds from the September 1 forecast but unchanged from last year. As of October 1, bolls were opened across 25 percent of the upland cotton crop, compared with 50 percent last year and a 5-year average of 46 percent. Overall, the cotton crop was rated 11 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. **Pima cotton** harvested area, forecast at 16,100 acres, is unchanged from last month but down 2,700 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 30,000 480-lb bales of Pima cotton, compared with 28,000 bales last year. Pima yield is forecast at 894 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but 179 pounds above last year.

New Mexico farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 145,000 acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture hay** this year, an increase of 20,000 acres from 2022. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 783,000 tons, up 4 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 31 percent from the 600,000 tons produced last year. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 5.40 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from the August 1 forecast and up 0.6 ton from the final 2022 yield. If realized, this would represent a record high tying yield, first established in 2013.

**Peanut** production for 2023 is forecast at 29.16 million pounds, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but 89 percent above the 15.43 million pound crop produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 2,700 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but up from 2,530 pounds last year. Harvested area, forecast at 10,800 acres, is unchanged from the September *Crop Production* report but is 4,700 acres above last year. As of October 1, the peanut crop was rated 25 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 25 percent good.

**Pecan** production in New Mexico for 2023 is forecast at 72.00 million pounds, down 4 percent from the 2022 season.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**All cotton** production is forecast at 12.8 million 480-pound bales, down 2 percent from the previous forecast and down 11 percent from 2022. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 767 pounds per harvested acre, down 19 pounds from the previous forecast and down 183 pounds from 2022. **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 12.5 million 480-pound bales, down 2 percent from the previous forecast and down 11 percent from 2022. **Pima cotton** production is forecast at 356,000 bales, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 24 percent from 2022. All cotton area harvested is forecast at 8.02 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 10 percent from 2022.

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.

**Peanut** production is forecast at 6.25 billion pounds in 2023, down 1 percent from the previous forecast, but up 13 percent from 2022. Area harvested is expected to total 1.60 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 16 percent from 2022. Based on

conditions as of October 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 3,905 pounds per acre, down 48 pounds per acre from the previous forecast and down 103 pounds per acre from 2022.

**Pecan** production is forecast at 248 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2022. Improved varieties are expected to produce 234 million pounds or 94 percent of the total. The native and seedling varieties are expected to produce 13.8 million pounds, making up the remaining 6 percent of production.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report, please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).