



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2023

Contact: Eric Sommer
(800) 392-3202

SMALL GRAINS – SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

All wheat production in Montana, estimated at 186.71 million bushels, is up 34 percent from 2022, according to the September 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. All wheat yield was 37.2 bushels per acre, up 8.9 bushels from a year ago.

Winter wheat producers seeded 1.85 million acres in the fall of 2022 for harvest in 2023, down from the 2.05 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Area harvested for grain decreased 120,000 acres from last year to 1.68 million acres in 2023. Winter wheat production is estimated at 85.68 million bushels, up 44 percent from the 59.40 million-bushel crop produced last year. Winter wheat yield, at 51.0 bushels per acre, is up 18.0 bushels from last year. This equals the record high yield established in 2020.

Spring wheat seedings, at 2.70 million acres, are unchanged from last year. Area harvested totaled 2.67 million acres, up from 2.44 million acres harvested last year. Spring wheat production is estimated at 80.10 million bushels, up 31 percent from the 61.00-million-bushel crop produced last year. Spring wheat yield, at 30.0 bushels per acre, is up 5.0 bushels from last year.

Durum wheat seedings, at 705,000 acres, are down 5,000 acres from last year. Harvested area totaled 675,000 acres, unchanged from the acreage harvested last year. Durum wheat production is estimated at 20.93 million bushels, up 11 percent from the 18.90-million-bushel crop produced last year. Durum wheat yield, at 31.0 bushels per acre, is up 3.0 bushels from last year.

Oat seedings in Montana totaled 65,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 22,000 acres for grain or seed, down 2,000 acres from 2022. Oat production totaled 814,000 bushels in 2023, down 11 percent from last year. Oat yield, at 37.0 bushels per acre, is down 1.0 bushel from the previous year.

Montana **barley** producers seeded 1.19 million acres in 2023, up 150,000 acres or 14 percent from last year. This represents the largest barley seeded area in Montana since 2000. Harvested area, at 1.02 million acres, is up 165,000 acres from 2022. This represents the largest harvested area in Montana since 1998. Barley yield, at 49.0 bushels per acre, is up 8.0 bushels from last year. Barley production is estimated at 49.74 million bushels, up 43 percent from the 34.85 million bushel crop produced in 2022.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All wheat production totaled 1.81 billion bushels in 2023, up 10 percent from the 2022 total of 1.65 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 37.3 million acres, up 5 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 48.6 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2022 by type were: winter wheat, 1.25 billion bushels, up 13 percent; other spring wheat, 505 million bushels, up 5 percent; and Durum wheat, 59.3 million bushels, down 7 percent.

Winter wheat production for 2023 totaled 1.25 billion bushels, up 13 percent from the 2022 total of 1.10 billion bushels. The United States yield, at 50.6 bushels per acre, was up 3.6 bushels from 2022. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 24.7 million acres, up 5 percent from 2022. Compared with 2022, harvested acreage was up 2 percent in the major Hard Red Winter (HRW) growing States, the primary winter wheat-producing area. HRW production totaled 601 million bushels, up 13 percent from 2022. In the Soft Red Winter (SRW) growing area, planted and harvested acreage increased from 2022. Coupled with several States estimated record high yields, SRW production totaled 449 million bushels, up 34 percent from 2022. White winter wheat production totaled 198 million bushels, down 16 percent from 2022. Harvested acreage was down 3 percent from 2022.

Spring wheat production for 2023 was estimated at 505 million bushels, up 5 percent from the 2022 total of 483 million bushels. Harvested area totaled 11.0 million acres, up 5 percent from 2022. The United States yield was estimated at 46.0 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from 46.2 bushels per acre in 2022. Of the total production, 468 million bushels were Hard Red Spring wheat, up 5 percent from the 2022 total.

Durum wheat production for 2023 was estimated at 59.3 million bushels, down 7 percent from the 2022 total of 64.0 million bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 1.60 million acres, up 1 percent from 2022. The United States yield was estimated at 37.0 bushels per acre, down 3.5 bushels from the 2022 yield.

Oat production was estimated at 57.0 million bushels, down 1 percent from 2022. Yield was estimated at 68.6 bushels per acre, up 3.8 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 831 thousand acres, was 7 percent below last year.

Barley production was estimated at 185 million bushels, up 6 percent from the 2022 total of 175 million bushels. The average yield, at 72.4 bushels per acre, was up 0.8 bushel from the previous year. Producers seeded 3.10 million acres in 2023, up 5 percent from 2022. Harvested area, at 2.56 million acres, was up 4 percent from 2022.

For a full copy of the *Small Grains Summary* report, please visit www.nass.usda.gov.