



Agriculture and Grazing Management

The Agriculture and Grazing Management Bureau supervises the management and leasing of approximately 10,000 agreements for crop and rangeland uses on 4.65 million acres of school trust lands throughout the state. Administrative staff and specialists in the department's Helena office and staff in field offices statewide accomplish these duties.

Surface Leasing

The program is responsible for the administrative functions associated with maintaining surface lease agreements. Each year, responsibilities include processing approximately 1,000 lease renewals; advertising, competitively bidding, and issuing approximately 50 new leases; reviewing and processing assignments, subleases, pasturing agreements, custom farming agreements, pledges, and mortgages; and collecting, verifying, and posting rentals and fees.

Agricultural Lands

Currently 3,000 agreements include agricultural use of state trust lands. Crops raised on these lands are primarily dryland hay and small grains, but also include irrigated grain crops, corn, sugar beets, potatoes, peas, lentils, garbanzo beans, canola, safflower, alfalfa seed, and native grass seed. Figure 6 shows barley and wheat Production in FY 2004 and FY 2005 and Figure 7 shows hay production in FY 2004 and FY 2005.