



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY – 2023

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Production of the 2023 **corn for grain** crop in Montana is estimated at 8.77 million bushels, up 14 percent, or 1.04 million bushels, from last year's production of 7.72 million bushels, according to the December 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The average yield of 129.0 bushels per acre is up 17.0 bushels from last year. Planted area totaled 135,000 acres, compared with 130,000 acres last year. Area harvested for grain in 2023, at 68,000 acres, is 1,000 acres below last year. Area harvested for **corn silage** is estimated at 62,000 acres, up 8,000 acres, or 15 percent, from last year, with production estimated at 1.43 million tons, compared with 1.13 million tons produced 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.

All wheat production in Montana, estimated at 186.71 million bushels, is up 34 percent from 2022. 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.

All dry hay production in Montana for 2023 is estimated at 5.30 million tons, up 28 percent from the 2022 total production of 4.14 million tons. **Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures dry hay** production is estimated at 3.47 million tons from 1.65 million acres harvested, up 533,000 tons from 2022. Average yield for the 2023 crop is 2.10 tons per acre, 0.05 ton above last year. **All other dry hay** production totaled 1.84 million tons from 1.05 million acres harvested, up 634,000 tons from 2022. This represents the largest other hay production and harvested area in Montana since 2005. The average yield of 1.75 tons per acre is 0.35 ton above last year. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Montana are estimated at 95,000 acres, up 35,000 acres from 2022.

As of December 1, producers in Montana were storing 3.85 million tons of **all dry hay** on farms, up 18 percent from the 3.25 million tons stored last year.

Montana **canola** growers planted 165,000 acres in 2023, a decrease of 15,000 acres from last year. Harvested area totaled 160,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from 2022. The average yield equaled 1,420 pounds per acre, up 390 pounds per acre from a year ago. Total production is estimated at 227.20 million pounds, up from 172.01 million pounds in 2022.

Flaxseed production in Montana for 2023 is estimated at 798,000 bushels, down from 880,000 bushels a year ago. Growers planted 68,000 acres and harvested 57,000 acres in 2023, compared with 98,000 acres planted and 80,000 acres harvested in 2022. The average yield for the 2023 crop is estimated at 14.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from a year ago.

Production of **safflower** in Montana for 2023 totaled 34.96 million pounds, compared with 20.65 million pounds in 2022. Planted area is estimated at 47,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 46,000 acres, is 11,000 acres above/below the 35,000 acres harvested in 2022. Safflower yield averaged 760 pounds per acre in 2023, up 170 pounds from last year.

The state's 2023 **sugarbeet** crop totaled 736,000 tons, down 28 percent from the 1.03 million tons produced last year. Planted area totaled 23,700 acres, compared with 33,700 acres last year. Producers harvested 23,300 acres in 2023, down from 33,600 acres in 2022. Average yield is estimated at 31.6 tons per acre, 1.1 tons above last year.

Montana's 2023 **lentil** production is estimated at 4.07 million hundredweight, compared with 4.12 million hundredweight a year ago. Planted area totaled 390,000 acres, with harvested area estimated at 373,000 acres, compared with 520,000 acres planted and 463,000 acres harvested in 2022. The average yield is estimated at 1,090 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from last year.

All chickpea production in Montana for 2023 is estimated at 1.99 million hundredweight, up from 1.30 million hundredweight in 2022. Growers planted 174,000 acres and harvested 164,500 acres in 2023, compared with 185,000 acres planted and 171,400 acres harvested in 2022. The average yield is 1,210 pounds per acre, up 450 pounds from last year.

Dry edible pea production for Montana in 2023 is estimated at 9.92 million hundredweight, up 34 percent from a year ago. Planted area totaled 580,000 acres, with harvested area estimated at 570,000 acres, compared with 550,000 acres planted and 510,000 acres harvested in 2022. The average yield is estimated at 1,740 pounds per acre, up 290 pounds from 2022.

Winter wheat seedings in Montana for the 2024 crop year are estimated at 1.90 million acres, up 50,000 acres from the final planted area realized in 2023.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in 2023 was estimated at a record high 15.3 billion bushels, up 12 percent from the 2022 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at a record high 177.3 bushels per acre, 3.9 bushels above the 2022 yield of 173.4 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 86.5 million acres, up 10 percent from the 2022 estimate. **Corn silage** production was estimated at 130 million tons for 2023, up 1 percent from the 2022 estimate. The United States silage yield was estimated at 20.1 tons per acre, up 1.4 tons from 2022. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.47 million acres, down 6 percent from the 2022 estimate.

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.

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.

Production of **all dry hay** for 2023 was estimated at 119 million tons, up 6 percent from the 2022 total. Area harvested was estimated at 52.8 million acres, up 8 percent from 2022. The average yield, at 2.25 tons per acre, was down 0.04 ton from 2022. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures hay** in 2023 was estimated at 49.9 million tons, up 2 percent from the 2022 total. Harvested area, at

15.6 million acres, was 3 percent above 2022. Average yield was estimated at 3.19 tons per acre, down 0.03 ton from 2022. Production of **all other hay** in 2023 totaled 68.9 million tons, up 9 percent from the 2022 total. Harvested area, at 37.2 million acres, was up 11 percent from 2022. Average yield was estimated at 1.85 tons per acre, down 0.02 ton from 2022. Growers seeded 1.74 million acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2023, up 4 percent from 2022. New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures are normally harvested for the first time in the year following planting.

All hay stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2023, totaled 76.7 million tons, down 7 percent from December 1, 2022. Disappearance from May 1, 2023 - December 1, 2023, totaled 56.4 million tons, down 1 percent from the same period in 2022.

Canola production in 2023 was estimated at a record high 4.16 billion pounds, up 9 percent from 2022. The average yield, at 1,793 pounds per acre, is up 30 pounds from last year's average and is the fifth highest on record. Planted area was estimated at 2.34 million acres, 6 percent above the previous year's acreage. Harvested area, at 2.32 million acres, was up 7 percent from 2022. Both the planted and harvested area are the highest on record for the Nation.

Production of **flaxseed** in 2023 totaled 2.96 million bushels, down 31 percent from the 2022 production. Harvested area totaled 160,000 acres in 2023, down 34 percent from 2022. The average United States yield for 2023, at 18.5 bushels per acre, was up 0.8 bushel from 2022.

Production of **safflower** in 2023, at a record low 131 million pounds, was down 19 percent from 2022. Growers planted 129,500 acres in 2023, a decline of 13 percent from the previous year and represents the lowest planted acreage for the Nation since records began in 1991. Harvested area for the Nation, at 126,000 acres, was down 6 percent from 2022 and is also the lowest harvested area on record. The average yield for the Nation, at 1,036 pounds per acre, decreased 173 pounds from the 2022 average yield per acre.

Sugarbeet production for 2023 was estimated at 35.2 million tons, up 8 percent from the previous year's revised production. Growers in the 11 major sugarbeet-producing States planted 1.14 million acres, down 2 percent from 2022. Harvested area, at 1.13 million acres, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 31.2 tons per acre, was up 2.5 tons from last year.

Production of **lentils** in 2023 was estimated at 5.74 million cwt, up 2 percent from the previous season. Planted area, at 546,000 acres, was down 20 percent from the previous season. Harvested area, at 523,000 acres, was down 16 percent from the previous season. The average yield was 1,098 pounds per acre, up 185 pounds from the previous season.

Production in 2023 of **all chickpeas** was estimated at 4.72 million cwt, up 28 percent from 2022. Area planted for all chickpeas for the 2023 crop year was estimated at 372,400 acres, up 4 percent from the previous year. Area harvested was estimated at 359,200 acres, 5 percent above 2022. The average yield at 1,315 pounds per acre is up 236 pounds from the 2022 season.

Production in 2023 of **dry edible peas** was estimated at 18.1 million cwt, up 17 percent from the previous season. Planted area, at 966,000 acres, up 2 percent from the previous season. Harvested area, at 941,000 acres, up 6 percent from the previous season. The average yield for dry edible peas for the 2023 season is 1,922 pounds per acre, up 175 pounds from the previous season.

Winter wheat seeded area for 2024 is expected to total 34.4 million acres, down 6 percent from 2023. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 24.0 million; Soft Red Winter, 6.86 million; and White Winter, 3.54 million.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2023 Summary* report, please visit www.nass.usda.gov.