



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY – 2021

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

The 2021 **corn** for grain crop is estimated at 6.00 million bushels, 10 percent below last year's production of 6.65 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 100.0 bushels per acre is 9.0 bushels per acre below the yield realized last year. Area harvested for grain in 2021, at 60,000 acres, is 1,000 acres below last year. Acreage cut for **corn silage** is estimated at 48,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from last year, with production estimated at 864,000 tons, compared with 1.07 million tons produced last year.

Oat seedings in Montana totaled 60,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 16,000 acres for grain or seed, down 25,000 acres from 2020 and the lowest oat harvested acreage in Montana since 16,000 acres were harvested in 2014. Oat production totaled 560,000 bushels in 2021, down 70 percent from last year and the lowest oat production ever recorded in Montana back to 1882. Oat yield is 35.0 bushels per acre in 2021, down 10.0 bushels per acre from the previous year and the lowest yield since 31.0 bushels per acre in 1988.

Montana's **barley** seeded area, at 940,000 acres, is down 30,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 625,000 acres, is down 165,000 acres from 2020. Barley yield, at 38.0 bushels per acre, is down 25.0 bushels per acre from last year and the lowest yield since 24.0 bushels per acre in 1988. Barley production in 2021 is estimated at 23.75 million bushels, down 52 percent from the previous year and the lowest barley production since 14.85 million bushels in 1953.

All wheat production in Montana, estimated at 100.85 million bushels, is down 56 percent from 2020. All wheat yield was 22.2 bushels per acre, down 19.5 bushels per acre from a year ago. **Winter wheat** producers seeded 1.95 million acres in the fall of 2020 for harvest in 2021, up from 1.55 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Acreage harvested for grain increased 240,000 acres from last year to 1.73 million acres in 2021. Winter wheat production is estimated at 53.63 million bushels, down 29 percent from last year and the lowest winter wheat production since 2002. Winter wheat yield, at 31.0 bushels per acre, is down 20.0 bushels per acre from last year and the lowest yield since 28.0 bushels per acre in 2002.

Spring wheat seedings, at 2.90 million acres, are down 450,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested totaled 2.18 million acres, down from 3.31 million acres harvested last year. Spring wheat production is estimated at 37.06 million bushels, down 71 percent from last year and the lowest production since 1988. Spring wheat yield, at 17.0 bushels per acre, is down 21.0 bushels per acre from last year and is the lowest yield since 12.0 bushels per acre in 1988.

Durum wheat seedings, at 670,000 acres, are down 25,000 acres from last year. Acreage harvested totaled 635,000 acres, down from 690,000 acres harvested last year. Durum wheat production is estimated at 10.16 million bushels, down 62 percent from last year and the lowest production since 2006. Durum wheat yield, at 16.0 bushels per acre, is down 23.0 bushels per acre from last year, equal to the yield set in 2017, and is the lowest yield since 9.0 bushels per acre in 1988.

All hay production for 2021 is estimated at 3.60 million tons, down 39 percent from the 2020 total, and the lowest all hay production in Montana since 1988. **Alfalfa hay** production is estimated at 2.64 million tons from 1.55 million acres harvested, down 1.55 million tons from 2020, and the lowest alfalfa hay production in Montana since 1988. Average yield for the 2021 crop is 1.70 tons per acre, down 0.50 ton per acre from last year, and the lowest alfalfa hay yield since 1961. **All other hay** production totaled 962,000 tons from 740,000 acres harvested, down 766,000 tons from 2020, and the lowest other hay production in Montana since 2000. The average yield of 1.30 tons per acre is down 0.50 ton per acre from last year, and the lowest other hay yield since 2008. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Montana are estimated at 80,000 acres, down 36 percent from 2020.

As of December 1, producers in Montana were storing 2.90 million tons of **all hay**, down 40 percent from the 4.80 million tons stored last year, and the lowest December 1 hay stocks in Montana since 1988.

Montana **canola** growers planted a record high 185,000 acres in 2021, up 30,000 acres from 2020. Harvested area totaled a record high 161,000 acres, up 12,000 acres from last year. The 2021 canola yield is 900 pounds per acre, down 720 pounds per acre from a year ago. Canola production totaled 144.90 million pounds, down from 241.38 million pounds in 2020. Montana's **flaxseed** production in 2021 is 485,000 bushels, down from 1.63 million bushels a year ago. Growers planted 135,000 acres and harvested 97,000 acres in 2021, compared with 105,000 acres planted and 102,000 acres harvested in 2020. The average yield for 2021 is 5.0 bushels per acre, down 11.0 bushels per acre from a year ago. Production of **safflower** in 2021 totaled 18.81 million pounds, compared with 40.92 million pounds in 2020. Planted acres are 40,000, down 9,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres are 33,000, compared with 44,000 acres in 2020. Safflower yield averaged 570 pounds per acre in 2021, down 360 pounds per acre from last year.

The state's **sugarbeet** crop of 1.30 million tons for 2021 is up 9 percent from the 1.19 million tons produced in 2020. Producers harvested 43,500 acres in 2021, up from 38,100 acres in 2020. Average yield is estimated at 29.8 tons per acre, 1.5 tons per acre below 2020.

All chickpea production, is 1.11 million hundredweight, compared to 1.53 million hundredweight in 2020. Planted area totaled 175,000 acres, up from 106,000 planted acres last year. Harvested area is 159,500 acres, compared with 104,000 acres last year. The yield is 700 pounds per acre, down 770 pounds per acre from last year.

Montana's 2021 **lentil** production is 2.01 million hundredweight, compared with 5.33 million hundredweight a year ago. Planted area is 530,000 acres, with harvested area at 380,000 acres, compared with last year's 370,000 acres planted and 360,000 acres harvested. Lentil yield for 2021 is 530 pounds per acre, down 950 pounds per acre from 2020. **Dry edible pea** production for 2021 in Montana is 3.32 million hundredweight, down 66 percent from a year ago. Dry pea yield for 2021 is 740 pounds per acre, down 1,330 pounds per acre from 2020. Planted and harvested acreages are 570,000 and 448,000 acres, respectively. Last year, growers planted 495,000 acres and harvested 478,000 acres of dry peas.

Winter wheat seedings last fall for the 2022 crop year are estimated at 1.95 million acres, unchanged from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in 2021 was estimated at 15.1 billion bushels, up 7 percent from the 2020 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at a record high 177.0 bushels per acre, 5.6 bushels above the 2020 yield of 171.4 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 85.4 million acres, up 4 percent from the 2020 estimate. **Corn silage** production was estimated at 130 million tons for 2021, down 5 percent from the 2020 estimate. The United States silage yield was estimated at 20.1 tons per acre, down 0.4 ton from 2020. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.48 million acres, down 3 percent from the 2020 estimate.

Oat production in 2021 was estimated at record low 39.8 million bushels, down 39 percent from 2020. Yield was estimated at 61.3 bushels per acre, down 3.8 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at a record low 650 thousand acres, was 36 percent below 2020.

Barley production was estimated at 118 million bushels, down 31 percent from the 2020 total of 171 million bushels. The average yield, at 60.4 bushels per acre, was down 16.8 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.66 million acres in 2021, down 2 percent from 2020. Harvested area, at 1.95 million acres, was down 12 percent from 2020.

All wheat production totaled 1.65 billion bushels in 2021, down 10 percent from the 2020 total of 1.83 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 37.2 million acres, up 1 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 44.3 bushels per acre, down 5.4 bushels from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2020 by type were: winter wheat, 1.28 billion bushels, up 9 percent; other spring wheat, 331 million bushels, down 44 percent; and Durum wheat, 37.3 million bushels, down 46 percent. **Winter wheat** production for 2021 totaled 1.28 billion bushels, up 9 percent from the 2020 total of 1.17 billion bushels. The United States yield, at 50.2 bushels per acre, was down 0.7 bushel from 2020. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 25.5 million acres, up 11 percent from the previous year. **Other spring wheat** production for 2021 was estimated at 331 million bushels, down 44 percent from the 2020 total of 588 million bushels. Harvested area totaled 10.2 million acres, down 16 percent from 2020. The United States yield was estimated at 32.6 bushels per acre, down 16.0 bushel from the record high of 48.6 bushels per acre in 2020. Of the total production, 297 million bushels were Hard Red Spring wheat, down 44 percent from the 2020 total. **Durum wheat** production for 2021 was estimated at 37.3 million bushels, down 46 percent from the 2020 total of 69.1 million bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 1.53 million acres, down 8 percent from the previous year. The United States yield was estimated at 24.3 bushels per acre, down 17.2 bushels from the 2020 yield.

Production of **all dry hay** for 2021 was estimated at 120.2 million tons, down 5 percent from the 2020 total. Area harvested was estimated at 50.7 million acres, down 3 percent from 2020. The average yield, at 2.37 tons per acre, was down 0.06 ton from 2020. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in 2021 was estimated at 49.2 million tons, down 7 percent from the 2020 total. Harvested area, at 15.2 million acres, was 6 percent below 2020. Average yield was estimated at 3.23 tons per acre, down 0.04 ton from 2020. **All other hay** production in 2021 totaled 71.0 million tons, down 4 percent from the 2020 total. Harvested area, at 35.5 million acres, was

down 1 percent from 2020. Average yield was estimated at 2.00 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton from 2020. **New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** totaled 1.65 million acres during 2021, down 25 percent from 2020. This is a record low for the Nation. 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, 2021 totaled 79.0 million tons, down 6 percent from December 1, 2020, which is the third lowest December 1 stocks since 1977. Disappearance from May 1, 2021 - December 1, 2021 totaled 59.2 million tons, down 6 percent from the same period in 2020.

Canola production in 2021 was estimated at 2.72 billion pounds, down 21 percent from 2020 but still represents the seventh largest total on record for the Nation. The average yield, at 1,302 pounds per acre, is down 629 pounds from last year's average and is the lowest since 2007. Planted area was estimated at 2.15 million acres, 18 percent above the previous year's acreage. Harvested area, at 2.09 million acres, was up 17 percent from 2020. Both the planted and harvested area are the highest on record for the Nation.

Production of **flaxseed** in 2021 totaled 2.71 million bushels, down 53 percent from the 2020 production. Harvested area totaled 268,000 acres in 2021, down 9 percent from 2020. Harvested acreage in North Dakota, the largest flaxseed-producing State, was estimated at 171,000 acres, down 12 percent from 2020. The average United States yield for 2021, at 10.1 bushels per acre, was down 9.2 bushels from 2020.

Production of **safflower** in 2021, at a record low of 135 million pounds, was down 11 percent from 2020. Growers planted 152,000 acres in 2021, an increase of 10 percent from the previous year but represented the third lowest planted area for the Nation since records began in 1991.

Sugarbeet production for 2021 was estimated at 36.8 million tons, up 9 percent from the previous year's revised production. Growers in the 11 major sugarbeet-producing States planted 1.16 million acres, down slightly from the 2020 revised area. Harvested area, at 1.11 million acres, was down 3 percent from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 33.2 tons per acre, was up 3.8 tons from last year.

Production in 2021 of **lentils** was estimated at 3.33 million cwt, down 55 percent from 2020. Planted area, at 708,000 acres, was up 35 percent from last year, while harvested acreage, at 549,000 acres, was up 8 percent from 2020. The average yield was expected to be 606 pounds per acre, down 845 pounds from last year.

Chickpea production in 2021 of all chickpeas was estimated at 2.86 million cwt, down 30 percent from 2020. Area planted for all chickpeas for the 2021 crop year was estimated at 368,500 acres, up 45 percent from the previous year. Area harvested was estimated at 351,000 acres, 40 percent above 2020. The average yield at 815 pounds per acre is down 815 pounds from the 2020 season.

Dry edible pea production in 2021 of dry edible peas was estimated at 8.55 million cwt, down 60 percent from last year. Planted area, at 977,000 acres, down 2 percent from 2020. Harvested area at 834,000 acres, was down 14 percent from the previous year. The average United States yield for dry edible peas for the 2021 season is 1,025 pounds per acre, down 1,205 pounds from 2020.

Winter wheat seeded area for 2022 is expected to total 34.4 million acres, up 2 percent from 2021. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 23.8 million; Soft Red Winter, 7.07 million; and White Winter, 3.56 million.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2021 Summary* report, please visit www.nass.usda.gov.