



# NEWS RELEASE

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## CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 1, 2023

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on August 1 conditions, **oat** production in Montana is forecast at 1.20 million bushels, according to the August 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down 20 percent from July 1 but up 32 percent from the 2022 crop. Harvested area is expected to total 30,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from the 24,000 acres harvested last year. Oat yield is forecast at 40.0 bushels per acre, down 10.0 bushels from July 1 but up 2.0 bushels from last year. As of July 30, Montana's oat crop condition was rated 6 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Oat harvest was 3 percent complete.

**Barley** production is forecast at 41.57 million bushels, up 7 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 21 percent from last year's 34.44-million-bushel crop. Planted area is estimated at 1.20 million acres, down 50,000 acres from June but 170,000 more than last year. Harvested area is expected to total 815,000 acres in 2023, down 30,000 acres from June and down 25,000 acres from last year. Barley yield is forecast at 51.0 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from July 1 and 10.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of July 30, the barley crop condition was rated 5 percent poor, 60 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Barley harvest was 8 percent complete, compared with 9 percent last year and the 5-year average of 5 percent.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 79.20 million bushels, down 2 percent from July 1 but up 33 percent from the 59.40-million-bushel crop produced last year. Harvested area is expected to total 1.65 million acres, 150,000 acres below the 1.80 million acres harvested in 2022. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 48.0 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushel from July 1 but 15.0 bushels above last year's final yield of 33.0 bushels per acre. As of July 30, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 6 percent poor, 52 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Winter wheat harvest was 21 percent complete, compared with 30 percent last year and the 5-year average of 24 percent.

**Durum wheat** production is forecast at 18.62 million bushels, down 12 percent from July 1 and down 1 percent from the 18.90-million-bushel crop produced last year. Planted area is estimated at 700,000 acres, up 50,000 acres from June but 10,000 less than last year. Harvested area is expected to total 665,000 acres, up 45,000 acres from June but down 10,000 acres from the 2022. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 28.0 bushels per acre, 6.0 bushels below July 1 but on par with last year's final yield. As of July 30, the Durum wheat crop condition was rated 24 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 24 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Durum wheat harvest was 3 percent complete.

**Spring wheat** production in Montana is forecast at 71.40 million bushels, down 18 percent from July 1 but up 17 percent from the 61.00-million-bushel crop produced last year. Harvested area is expected to total 2.55 million acres, up 110,000 acres from the 2.44 million acres harvested in 2022. As of August 1, the average yield is forecast at 28.0 bushels per acre, down 6.0 bushels from July 1 but 3.0 bushels above last year's final yield. As of July 30, the spring wheat crop condition was rated 12 percent poor, 53 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Spring wheat harvest was 1 percent complete, compared with 4 percent last year and the 5-year average of 4 percent.

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.60 million acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, up 200,000 acres from 2022. They also expect to harvest 1,050,000 acres of **other hay** in 2023, up 160,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 3.52 million tons, up 23 percent from the 2.87 million tons produced in 2022. Other hay production is forecast at 1.79 million tons, up 43 percent from the 1,246,000 tons produced a year ago. Yields are expected to average 2.20 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.70 tons per acre for other hay, compared with last year's yields of 2.05 tons per acre for alfalfa hay and 1.40 tons per acre for other hay.

**Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 764,000 tons, down 25 percent from the 1.02 million tons produced in 2022. Growers expect to harvest 23,000 acres this year, compared with 33,500 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 33.2 tons per acre, up from 30.5 tons a year ago. As of July 30, the sugarbeet crop was rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 57 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Oat** acreage updates were made based on a thorough review of all available data. Total planted area, at 2.56 million acres, is up 2 percent from the previous estimate but down 1 percent from 2022. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 804,000 acres, up 1 percent from the previous forecast but down 10 percent from last year. Production is forecast at 49.5 million bushels, down 14 percent from 2022. Based on conditions as of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 61.5 bushels per acre, down 3.3 bushels from the 2022 average yield.

**Barley** acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data. Total planted area, at 3.19 million acres is down 5 percent from the previous estimate but up 8 percent from 2022. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 2.40 million acres, down 5 percent from the *Acreage* report and down 1 percent from last year. Production is forecast at 180 million bushels, up 3 percent from 2022. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 75.1 bushels per acre, up 3.4 bushels from last year.

**All wheat** production for grain is forecast at 1.73 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the previous forecast but up 5 percent from 2022. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 45.8 bushels per harvested acre, down 0.3 bushel from the previous forecast and down 0.7 bushels from 2022. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 37.9 million acres, up less than 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 7 percent from 2022.

**Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.23 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the July 1 forecast and up 11 percent from 2022. As of August 1, the United States yield is forecast at 48.1 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from last month and up 1.1 bushels from last year's average yield of 47.0 bushels per acre. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 25.5 million acres, down 1 percent from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2023, but up 9 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 585 million bushels, is up 1 percent from last month. Soft Red Winter, at 440 million bushels, is up 4 percent from the July forecast. White Winter, at 202 million bushels, is down 2 percent from last month. Of the White Winter production, 11.9 million bushels are Hard White and 190 million bushels are Soft White.

**Durum wheat** production is forecast at 57.4 million bushels, up 6 percent from the previous forecast but down 10 percent from 2022. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 35.5 bushels per harvested acre, down 2.4 bushels from the previous forecast and down 5.0 bushels from 2022. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 1.62 million acres, up 13 percent from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2023, and up 2 percent from 2022.

**Other spring wheat** production for grain is forecast at 450 million bushels, down 6 percent from the previous forecast and down 7 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.8 bushels per harvested acre, down 3.4 bushels from the previous forecast and down 4.4 bushel from 2022. Area harvested for grain or seed is expected to total 10.8 million acres, up 2 percent from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2023, and up 3 percent from 2022. Of the total production, 413 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, down 7 percent from 2022.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2023 is forecast at 48.9 million tons, up 2 percent from 2022. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.13 tons per acre, down 0.09 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 69.9 million tons, up 8 percent from 2022. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 1.92 tons per acre, up 0.05 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 36.3 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report, but up 5 percent from 2022.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2023 crop year is forecast at 34.4 million tons, up 5 percent from 2022. Producers expect to harvest 1.11 million acres, down 2 percent from the last year. Yield is forecast at 30.9 tons per acre, up 2.3 tons from last year.

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