



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PRODUCTION – MAY 1, 2024

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Colorado, based on conditions as of May 1, 2024, is forecast at 81.40 million bushels, according to the May 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is 9 percent above last year's production of 74.62 million bushels, and 128 percent above the 35.75-million-bushel crop produced two years ago. Harvested area, forecast at 1.85 million acres, is 30,000 acres, or 2 percent, above last year. Average yield is forecast at 44.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from last year's final yield.

As of April 28, Colorado's winter wheat crop condition was rated 10 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 2 percent excellent, compared with 10 percent very poor, 27 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 24 percent good, and 4 percent excellent last year.

Hay stocks on Colorado farms and ranches as of May 1, 2024, totaled 800,000 tons, an increase of 371 percent from record low stocks of 170,000 tons on hand last year. Hay production for 2023 totaled 3.12 million tons, 14 percent higher than the record low production in 2022. Disappearance from December 1, 2023 – May 1, 2024, was 850,000 tons, compared with 1.18 million tons during the same period a year earlier.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.28 billion bushels, up 2 percent from 2023. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 50.7 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last year's average yield of 50.6 bushels per acre. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 25.2 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 705 million bushels, is up 17 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 344 million bushels, is down 23 percent from 2023. White Winter, at 229 million bushels, is up 16 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 17.3 million bushels are Hard White and 211 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on United States farms as of May 1, 2024, totaled 21.0 million tons, up 47 percent from May 1, 2023. Disappearance from December 1, 2023 – May 1, 2024, totaled 55.7 million tons, down 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

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