



# 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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## CROP PRODUCTION – MAY 1, 2024

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

**Winter wheat** production in Montana, based on conditions as of May 1, 2024, is forecast at 86.95 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 1 percent above last year's realized production of 85.68 million bushels, and 46 percent above the 59.40-million-bushel crop produced two years ago. Harvested area, forecast at 1.85 million acres, is 170,000 acres, or 10 percent, above last year. Average yield is forecast at 47.0 bushels per acre, down 4.0 bushels from last year's final yield.

As of April 28, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 5 percent poor, 52 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 2 percent excellent, compared with 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 46 percent good last year.

**Hay stocks** on Montana farms and ranches as of May 1, 2024, totaled a record high 1,590,000 tons, an increase of 253 percent from stocks of 450,000 tons on hand last year. Hay production for 2023 totaled 5.30 million tons, 28 percent higher than production in 2022. Disappearance from December 1, 2023 – May 1, 2024, was 2.26 million tons, compared with 2.80 million tons 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](http://www.nass.usda.gov).