



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY – 2024

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Production of the 2024 **corn for grain** crop in Montana is estimated at 6.72 million bushels, down 23 percent, or 2.06 million bushels, from last year's production of 8.77 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 85.0 bushels per acre is down 44.0 bushels from last year. Planted area totaled 130,000 acres, compared with 135,000 acres last year. Area harvested for grain in 2024, at 79,000 acres, is 11,000 acres above last year. Area harvested for **corn silage** is estimated at 37,000 acres, down 25,000 acres, or 40 percent, from last year, with production estimated at 740,000 tons, compared with 1.43 million tons produced last year.

Oat production in Montana, estimated at 825,000 bushels, is up 1 percent from 2024. Producers seeded 60,000 acres, down from the 65,000 acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Area harvested for grain, estimated at 25,000 acres, increased 3,000 acres, or 14 percent, from last year. Oat yield, at 33.0 bushels per acre, is down 4.0 bushels from 2023.

Barley production in Montana, estimated at 36.21 million bushels, is down 28 percent from the 50.47-million-bushel crop produced in 2023. Producers seeded 900,000 acres, down from the 1.19 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Area harvested for grain, estimated at 710,000 acres, decreased 320,000 acres, or 31 percent, from last year. Barley yield, at 51.0 bushels per acre, is up 2.0 bushels from 2023.

All wheat production in Montana, estimated at 172.12 million bushels, is down 7 percent from 2024, with a yield of 34.2 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from a year ago. **Winter wheat** production in Montana, estimated at 91.50 million bushels, is up 7 percent from the 85.68-million-bushel crop produced in 2023. Producers seeded 1.95 million acres, up from the 1.85 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Area harvested for grain, estimated at 1.83 million acres, increased 150,000 acres, or 9 percent, from last year. Winter wheat yield, at 50.0 bushels per acre, is down 1.0 bushel from a year ago. **Spring wheat** production in Montana, estimated at 60.84 million bushels, is down 23 percent from the 78.90-million-bushel crop produced in 2023. Producers seeded 2.45 million acres, down from the 2.70 million acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Area harvested for grain, estimated at 2.34 million acres, decreased 290,000 acres, or 11 percent, from last year. Spring wheat yield, at 26.0 bushels per acre, is down 4.0 bushels from a year ago. **Durum wheat** production in Montana, estimated at 19.78 million bushels, is down 5 percent from the 20.93-million-bushel crop produced in 2023. Producers seeded 880,000 acres, up from the 705,000 acres seeded for the previous year's crop. Area harvested for grain, estimated at 860,000 acres, increased 185,000 acres, or 27 percent, from last year. Durum wheat yield, at 23.0 bushels per acre, is down 8.0 bushels from a year ago.

All dry hay production in Montana for 2024 is estimated at 4.82 million tons, down 9 percent from the 2023 total production of 5.30 million tons. **Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures dry hay** production is estimated at 3.23 million tons from 1.50 million acres harvested, down 240,000 tons from 2023. Average yield for the 2024 crop is 2.15 tons per acre, 0.05 ton above last year. **All other dry hay** production totaled 1.59 million tons from 1.06 million acres harvested, down 248,000 tons from 2023. The average yield of 1.50 tons per acre is 0.25 ton below last year. New **seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** in Montana are estimated at 125,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from 2023.

As of December 1, producers in Montana were storing 3.80 million tons of **all dry hay** on farms, down 1 percent from the 3.85 million tons stored last year.

Montana **canola** growers planted 215,000 acres in 2024, an increase of 50,000 acres from last year. Harvested area totaled 204,000 acres, up 44,000 acres from 2023. The average yield equaled 1,030 pounds per acre, down 390 pounds per acre from a year ago. Total production is estimated at 209.09 million pounds, down from 227.20 million pounds in 2023.

Flaxseed production in Montana for 2024 is estimated at 350,000 bushels, down from 798,000 bushels a year ago. Growers planted 56,000 acres and harvested 50,000 acres in 2024, compared with 68,000 acres planted and 57,000 acres harvested in 2023. The average yield for the 2024 crop is estimated at 7.0 bushels per acre, down 7.0 bushels from a year ago.

Production of **safflower** in Montana for 2024 totaled 17.71 million pounds, compared with 34.96 million pounds in 2023. Planted area is estimated at 26,000 acres, down 21,000 acres from last year. Harvested area, at 23,000 acres, is 23,000 acres below the 46,000 acres harvested in 2023. Safflower yield averaged 770 pounds per acre in 2024, up 10 pounds from last year.

The state's 2024 **sugarbeet** crop totaled 785,000 tons, up 7 percent from the 736,000 tons produced last year. Planted area totaled 24,600 acres, compared with 23,800 acres last year. Producers harvested 24,300 acres in 2024, up from 23,300 acres in 2023. Average yield is estimated at 32.3 tons per acre, 0.7 ton above last year.

Montana's 2024 **lentil** production is estimated at 6.21 million hundredweight, compared with 4.04 million hundredweight a year ago. Planted area totaled 720,000 acres with harvested area estimated at 690,000 acres, compared with 390,000 acres planted and 374,000 acres harvested in 2023. The average yield is estimated at 900 pounds per acre, down 180 pounds from last year.

All chickpea production in Montana for 2024 is estimated at 2.05 million hundredweight, up from 1.98 million hundredweight in 2023. Growers planted 220,000 acres and harvested 212,800 acres in 2024, compared with 173,000 acres planted and 163,700 acres harvested in 2023. The average yield is 960 pounds per acre, down 250 pounds from last year.

Dry edible pea production for Montana in 2024 is estimated at 8.15 million hundredweight, down 18 percent from a year ago. Planted area totaled 590,000 acres with harvested area estimated at 570,000 acres, compared with 580,000 acres planted and 570,000 acres harvested in 2023. The average yield is estimated at 1,430 pounds per acre, down 310 pounds from 2023.

Winter wheat seedings in Montana for the 2025 crop year are estimated at 2.25 million acres, up 300,000 acres from the final planted area realized in 2024.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production in the United States was estimated at 14.9 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the 2023 estimate. The average yield in the United States was estimated at a record high 179.3 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above the 2023 yield of 177.3 bushels per acre. Corn planted area, at 90.6 million acres, was down 4 percent from the 2023 estimate. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 82.9 million acres, down 4 percent from the 2023 estimate. **Corn silage** production was estimated at 123 million tons for 2024, down 5 percent from the 2023 estimate. The United States silage yield was estimated at 20.2 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from 2023. Area harvested for silage was estimated at 6.10 million acres, down 6 percent from the 2023 estimate.

Oat production in 2024 was estimated at 67.8 million bushels, up 23 percent from 2023 in comparable States. Yield was estimated at a record high 76.5 bushels per acre, up 7.7 bushels from the previous year in comparable States. Harvested area, at 886 thousand acres, was 11 percent above 2023 in comparable States.

Barley production was estimated at 144 million bushels, down 23 percent from the 2023 total of 186 million bushels. The United States average yield, at 76.7 bushels per acre, was up 4.4 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.37 million acres in 2024, down 24 percent from 2023. Harvested area, at 1.88 million acres, was down 27 percent from 2023.

All wheat production totaled 1.97 billion bushels in 2024, up 9 percent from the 2023 total of 1.80 billion bushels. Area harvested for grain totaled 38.5 million acres, up 4 percent from the previous year. The average yield in the United States was estimated at 51.2 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2023 by type were: winter wheat, 1.35 billion bushels, up 9 percent; other spring wheat, 542 million bushels, up 8 percent; and Durum wheat, 80.1 million bushels, up 35 percent. **Winter wheat** production for 2024 totaled 1.35 billion bushels, up 9 percent from the 2023 total of 1.24 billion bushels in comparable States. The United States yield, at 51.7 bushels per acre, was up 1.1 bushels from 2023 in comparable States. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 26.1 million acres, up 6 percent from 2023 in comparable States. Record high yields were estimated in Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin for 2024. Compared with 2023, harvested acreage was up 17 percent in the major Hard Red Winter (HRW) growing States, the primary winter wheat-producing area. HRW production totaled 770 million bushels, up 29 percent from 2023. In the Soft Red Winter (SRW) growing area, harvested acreage decreased 20 percent from 2023 in comparable States. SRW production totaled 342 million bushels, down 23 percent from 2023 in comparable States. White winter wheat production totaled 236 million bushels, up 20 percent from 2023. Harvested acreage was up 2 percent from 2023 for 2024 was estimated at 542 million bushels, up 8 percent from the 2023 total of 502 million bushels. Harvested area totaled 10.3 million acres, down 5 percent from 2023. The United States yield was a record high, estimated at 52.5 bushels per acre, up 6.5 bushels from 46.0 bushels per acre in 2023. Of the total production, 503 million bushels were Hard Red Spring wheat, up 8 percent from the 2023 total. **Durum wheat** production for 2024 was estimated at 80.1 million bushels, up 36 percent from the 2023 total of 58.7 million bushels in comparable States. Area harvested for grain totaled 2.04 million acres, up 28 percent from 2023 in comparable States. The United States yield was estimated at 39.3 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from the 2023 yield in comparable States.

Production of all dry hay for 2023 was estimated at 122 million tons, up 3 percent from the 2023 total. Area harvested was estimated at 49.4 million acres, down 6 percent from 2023. The average yield, at 2.48 tons per acre, was up 0.23 ton from 2023. Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures hay** in 2024 was estimated at 49.8 million tons, up slightly from the 2023 total. Harvested area, at 14.6 million acres, is down 6 percent from 2023. Average yield estimated at 3.41 tons per acre, is up 0.22 ton from 2023. Production of **all other hay** in 2024 totaled 72.6 million tons, up 6 percent from the 2023 total. Harvested area, at 34.8 million acres, is down 6 percent from 2023. Average yield was estimated at a record high 2.09 tons per acre, up 0.24 ton from 2023. Growers seeded 1.85 million acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2024, up 6 percent from 2023. 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, 2024, totaled 81.5 million tons, up 6 percent from December 1, 2023. Disappearance from May 1, 2024 - December 1, 2024, totaled 61.9 million tons, up 10 percent from the same period in 2023.

Canola production in 2024 was estimated at a record high 4.83 billion pounds, up 13 percent from 2023 in comparable States. The average yield, at 1,784 pounds per acre, is down 3 pounds from last year's average in comparable States and is the sixth highest on record. Planted area was estimated at 2.75 million acres, 13 percent above the previous year's acreage in comparable States. Harvested area, at 2.71 million acres, was up 13 percent from 2023 in comparable States. Both the planted and harvested area are the highest on record for the Nation.

Production of **flaxseed** in 2024 totaled 2.42 million bushels, down 18 percent from the 2023 production. Harvested area totaled 140,000 acres in 2024, down 13 percent from 2023. The average United States yield for 2024, at 17.3 bushels per acre, was down 1.2 bushels from 2023.

Production of **safflower** in 2024, at a record low 130 million pounds, was down 8 percent from 2023 in comparable States. Growers planted a record low 116,600 acres in 2024, a decline of 18 percent from the previous year in comparable States. Montana showed the largest decline compared with last year, down 21,000 acres. Harvested area for the Nation, at a record low 108,000 acres, was down 22 percent from 2023 in comparable States. The average yield for the Nation, at 1,200 pounds per acre, increased 194 pounds from the 2023 average yield per acre in comparable States.

Sugarbeet production for 2024 was estimated at 35.3 million tons, down 2 percent from the previous year's revised production. Growers planted 1.10 million acres, down 2 percent from 2023. Harvested area, at 1.09 million acres, was down 3 percent from the previous year. Estimated yield, at 32.5 tons per acre, was up 0.3 ton from last year.

Production of **lentils** in 2024 was estimated at 9.05 million cwt, up 64 percent from the previous season in comparable States. Planted area, at 936,000 acres, up 78 percent from the previous season in comparable States. Harvested area, at 903,000 acres, up 79 percent from the previous season in comparable States. The average yield for lentils for the 2024 season was estimated at 1,002 pounds per acre, down 87 pounds from the previous season in comparable States.

Production in 2024 of **all chickpeas** was estimated at 5.63 million cwt, up 23 percent from 2023 in comparable States. Area planted for all chickpeas for the 2024 crop year was estimated at 502,000 acres, up 38 percent from the previous year in comparable States. Area harvested was estimated at 492,400 acres, 39 percent above 2023 in comparable States. The average yield at 1,144 pounds per acre is down 149 pounds from the 2023 season in comparable States.

Production in 2024 of **dry edible peas** was estimated at 16.7 million cwt, down 6 percent from the previous season in comparable States. Planted area, at 976,000 acres, up 4 percent from the previous season in comparable States. Harvested area, at 939,900 acres, up 2 percent from the previous season in comparable States. The acreage yield for dry edible peas for the 2024 season was estimated to be 1,775 pounds per acre, down 149 pounds from the previous season in comparable States.

Winter wheat seeded area for harvest in 2025 is estimated at 34.1 million acres, up 2 percent from 2024 but down 7 percent from 2023. Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is expected to total 24.0 million acres, up 1 percent from 2024. Soft Red Winter (SRW) wheat seeded area totals 6.44 million acres, up 6 percent from last year. White Winter wheat seeded area totals 3.64 million acres, up 3 percent from 2024.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production 2024 Summary* report, please visit www.nass.usda.gov.