



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



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## CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 1, 2024

### NEW MEXICO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **all cotton** production in New Mexico is expected to total 60,000 480-lb bales, according to the October 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is down 14 percent from the September 1 forecast, but up 18 percent from last year's 51,000 480-lb bale crop.

Harvested area of **upland cotton**, forecast at 27,000 acres, is unchanged from last month but up 10,000 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 40,000 480-lb bales of upland cotton, down 20 percent from the September 1 forecast but up 74 percent from a year ago. Upland yield is forecast at 711 pounds per acre, down 178 pounds from the September 1 forecast but up 62 pounds from last year. As of September 29, bolls were opening across 50 percent of the cotton crop, compared with 24 percent last year and a 5-year average of 37 percent. Overall, the cotton crop was rated 10 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 41 percent excellent. Harvested area of **Pima cotton**, forecast at 14,000 acres, is unchanged from last month but down 2,800 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 20,000 480-lb bales of Pima cotton, compared with 28,000 bales last year. Pima yield is forecast at 686 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but 114 pounds below last year.

New Mexico farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 130,000 acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** this year, down 25,000 acres from 2023. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 585,000 tons, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but down 21 percent from the 744,000 tons produced last year. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 4.50 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but down 0.3 ton from the final 2023 yield.

**Pecan** production in New Mexico for 2024 is forecast at 91.00 million pounds, down 15 percent from the previous season.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**All cotton** production is forecast at 14.2 million 480-pound bales, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 18 percent from 2023. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 789 pounds per harvested acre, down 18 pounds from the previous forecast and down 110 pounds from 2023. **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 13.7 million 480-pound bales, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 16 percent from 2023. **Pima cotton** production is forecast at 516,000 bales, down 6 percent from the previous forecast but up 63 percent from 2023. All cotton area harvested is forecast at 8.63 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 34 percent from 2023.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay** for 2024 is forecast at 54.0 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 8 percent from 2023. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.10 ton from the August forecast and up 0.26 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 15.6 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report but down slightly from 2023. Record high yields are forecast for California, Oregon, and Texas. Production of **other hay** is forecast at 72.9 million tons, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up 6 percent from 2023. Based on October 1 conditions, the United States yield is expected to average 2.03 tons per acre, down 0.04 ton from the August forecast but up 0.18 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 35.9 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report but down 3 percent from 2023.

**Pecan** production is forecast at 271 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2023. Improved varieties are expected to produce 256 million pounds, or 95 percent of the total. The native and seedling varieties are expected to produce 14.6 million pounds, making up the remaining 5 percent of production.

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