



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2020

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Montana growers intend to plant 135,000 acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2020, up 20,000 acres, or 17 percent from last year's plantings, according to the March 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The area expected to be seeded to **oats**, at 75,000 acres, is up 5,000 acres from a year ago. Growers intend to plant 1.01 million acres of **barley** in 2020, up 90,000 acres from last year's actual plantings. If realized, this would be the highest barley planted acreage since 2003 when 1.15 million acres were planted.

All wheat acreage is expected to total 5.47 million acres for 2020. **Winter wheat** seeded last fall for harvest in 2020 is estimated at 1.60 million acres, down 400,000 acres from the 2019 crop. Growers intend to seed 570,000 acres of **Durum wheat** this year, up 20,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to seed 3.30 million acres of **spring wheat** this year, up 400,000 acres from last year. If realized, this would be the highest spring wheat planted acreage since 2002 when 3.75 million acres were planted. **Hay** producers in the State intend to harvest 2.80 million acres this year. This is down 200,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2019. Montana **canola** producers intend to plant a record high 175,000 acres in 2020, up 25,000 acres from 2019. **Flaxseed** producers intend to plant 80,000 acres in 2020, down 19,000 acres from last year.

The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to be up 700 acres from last year's actual plantings to 42,500 acres. All **garbanzo beans** (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 139,000 acres, down 60,000 acres from 2019. The acreage of small chickpeas is expected to total 56,000 acres and the acreage of large chickpeas is expected to total 83,000 acres this year.

Lentil acres planted for 2020 are expected to total 315,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from last year. All **dry edible pea** area planted, which includes Austrian winter peas, is expected to total 495,000 acres, down 35,000 acres from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2020 is estimated at 97.0 million acres, up 8 percent or 7.29 million acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be up or unchanged in 38 of the 48 estimating States.

Area expected to be seeded to **oats** for the 2020 crop year is estimated at 3.01 million acres, up 7 percent from 2019. If realized, the United States planted area will be the ninth lowest on record.

Producers seeded 2.92 million acres of **barley** for the 2020 crop year, up 7 percent from the previous year.

All wheat planted area for 2020 is estimated at 44.7 million acres, down 1 percent from 2019. This represents the lowest all wheat planted area since records began in 1919. The 2020 **winter wheat** planted area, at 30.8 million acres, is down 1 percent from last year and down slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 21.7 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 5.69 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.42 million acres are White Winter. Area expected to be planted to **other spring wheat** for 2020 is estimated at 12.6 million acres, down 1 percent from 2019. Of this total, about 11.9 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Durum** planted area for 2020 is expected to total 1.29 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 53.3 million acres of **all hay** in 2020, up 2 percent from 2019.

Producers intend to plant 1.99 million acres of **canola** in 2020, down 3 percent from last year's planted area.

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Growers intend to plant 270,000 acres of **flaxseed** in 2020, twenty-eight percent less than was planted in 2019.

Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2020 crop year is estimated at 1.14 million acres, up 1 percent from 2019.

Area intended to be planted for **all chickpeas** is estimated at 306,000 acres, down 32 percent from last season. Small chickpea intentions, at 100,000 acres, are 5 percent below 2019, while large chickpea intentions, at 206,000 acres, are expected to decrease 41 percent from the previous year.

Area planted to **lentils** for the 2020 crop year is expected to total 474,000 acres, down 2 percent from 2019.

Area planted to **dry edible peas** for the 2020 crop year is expected to total 971,000 acres, down 12 percent from last year.

For a full copy of the *Prospective Plantings* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.