

ROP DUCTION

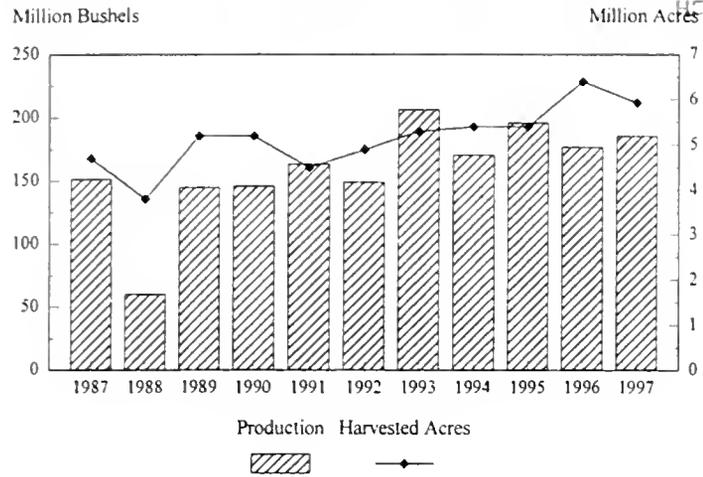


MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
301 South Park, Drawer 10033
Helena, MT 59626-0033
Phone: (406) 441-1240
(800) 835-2612
e-mail: nass-mt@nass.usda.gov

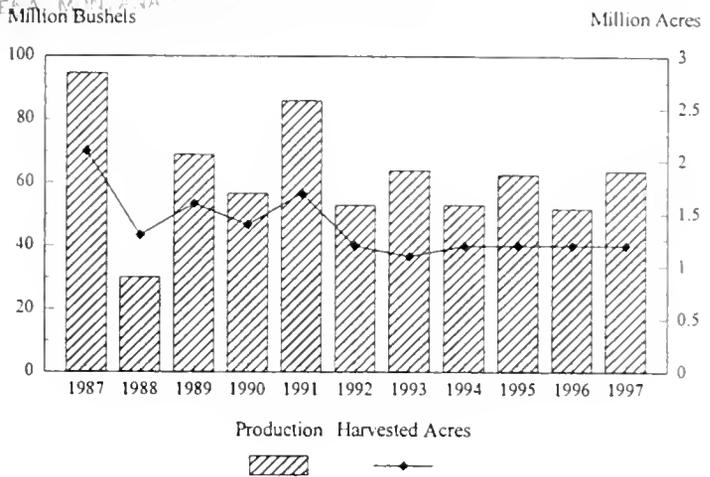
STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

Annual Summary 1997 Released: February 20, 1998

Montana All Wheat



Montana Barley



Dry conditions during the fall of 1996 led winter wheat producers to plant the second smallest winter wheat crop since 1951. Montana's winter wheat acreage was estimated at 1.6 million acres, down 26 percent from last year. Winter kill caused many acres to be reseeded, but producers were able to harvest 1.45 million acres, down 27 percent from 1996. Adequate moisture at the beginning of the season and timely rains in most of the winter wheat producing areas set the stage for the fourth highest yield on record. Average yield was estimated at 39 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year, for a total production of 56.55 million bushels which is down 11 percent from 1996.

Spring wheat acreage made up for the lost winter wheat acreage. Montana producers planted an estimated 4.35 million acres, up 150,000 from last year, and the largest spring wheat acreage planted since 1953 when other spring and durum wheat records were combined. The eastern third of the state suffered from some drought-like conditions early in the year, but the rest of the state had a fair growing season with timely moisture. Producers were able to harvest 4.2 million acres, up 100,000 from last year. Yields averaged 29 bushels per acre across the state, up 3 bushels from 1996, but down nearly 3 bushels from the last five-year average due mainly to lower yields in the eastern third of the state. Total production was estimated at 121.8 million bushels, up 14 percent from last year. This is the second largest crop on record only behind 1995's production.

Montana durum wheat growers planted

290,000 acres and harvested 280,000 acres, both unchanged from last year's revised acreage estimates. Droughty conditions reduced yields to an average 26 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year, when drought-like conditions also occurred. Total production was estimated at 7.28 million bushels, up nearly 4 percent from last year.

Barley acreage in Montana was estimated at 1.3 million acres with harvested acreage set at 1.2 million acres, both unchanged from 1996. Average yields were set at 53 bushels per acre, up 10 bushels from last year. This is the second highest yield on record. Not as much barley is grown in the eastern portion of the state which kept yields up unlike spring wheat. Total production was estimated at 63.6 million bushels, up 23 percent from last year.

Oat production was estimated at 3.85 million bushels, nearly twice the amount produced last year. Producers harvested more acreage and had better yields than 1996. Planted acreage was estimated at 140,000 acres, up 40,000 from last year. Harvested acreage was set at 70,000 acres, up 20,000 from last year. Yields averaged 55 bushels per acre, up 15 bushels from last year.

Montana producers harvested 14,000 acres of corn for grain in 1997, down 1,000 acres from last year. The average yield was 135 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last year's record. Production decreased 8 percent from last year to 1.89 million bushels. Corn for silage acreage was estimated at 45,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from 1996. Yields

averaged 21 tons per acre, the same as a year ago.

Sugar beet producers in Montana harvested an estimated 58,300 acres of beets this year, up 800 acres from a year ago. Yields decreased 1.6 tons from last year to average 21.0 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.2 million tons, down 8 percent from 1996.

Montana dry bean growers produced an estimated 257,000 cwt. of dry beans in 1997. Production was up 22,000 cwt. from 1996. Growers harvested 11,700 acres with a yield of 22.0 cwt. per acre compared with last year's 10,300 acres harvested with a yield of 22.8 cwt. per acre.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.33 million cwt., up 4 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,400 acres compared with 10,200 in 1996. Yields increased 5 cwt. per acre from a year ago to 320 cwt.

All hay harvested in Montana was the same as last year at 2.6 million acres. All hay production was 5.48 million tons, up 11 percent or 560,000 tons from a year ago. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage was 1.65 million acres, down 50,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.4 tons per acre compared with 2.1 tons per acre in 1996. Other hay harvested acreage was 950,000 acres and the average yield was 1.6 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above last year. Montana hay growers seeded an estimated 150,000 acres of alfalfa during 1997. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

MONTANA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY, 1994-97 1/

| Crop | Year | Acreage | | Yield Per Acre | Total Production | Season Avg Price | Value of Production | US Production |
|--------------------|------|-----------|-----------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Planted | Harvested | | | | | |
| | | Thousands | | Bushels | Thousands | | Thousands | Thousands |
| Winter Wheat | 1994 | 1,950 | 1,850 | 35.0 | 64,750 | \$3.45 | \$223,388 | 1,661,943 |
| | 1995 | 1,500 | 1,370 | 40.0 | 54,800 | **4.62 | 253,176 | 1,544,653 |
| | 1996 | 2,150 | 1,980 | 32.0 | 63,360 | 4.24 | 268,646 | 1,477,058 |
| | 1997 | 1,600 | 1,450 | 39.0 | 56,550 | 3.45 | 195,098 | 1,882,609 |
| Durum Wheat | 1994 | 180 | 178 | 30.0 | 5,340 | \$4.83 | \$25,792 | 96,747 |
| | 1995 | 270 | 265 | 30.0 | 7,950 | 5.09 | 40,466 | 102,280 |
| | 1996 | 290 | 280 | 25.0 | 7,000 | 4.65 | 32,550 | 116,090 |
| | 1997 | 290 | 280 | 26.0 | 7,280 | 5.05 | 36,764 | 86,193 |
| Other Spring Wheat | 1994 | 3,450 | 3,350 | 30.0 | 100,500 | \$3.51 | \$352,755 | 562,291 |
| | 1995 | 3,950 | 3,800 | 35.0 | **133,000 | **4.59 | **610,470 | 535,658 |
| | 1996 | 4,200 | 4,100 | 26.0 | 106,600 | 4.22 | 449,852 | 691,985 |
| | 1997 | **4,350 | **4,200 | 29.0 | 121,800 | 3.70 | 450,660 | 557,750 |
| All Wheat | 1994 | 5,580 | 5,378 | 31.7 | 170,590 | \$3.54 | \$601,935 | 2,320,981 |
| | 1995 | 5,720 | 5,435 | 36.0 | 195,750 | **4.63 | **904,112 | 2,182,591 |
| | 1996 | **6,640 | **6,360 | 27.8 | 176,960 | 4.24 | 751,048 | 2,285,133 |
| | 1997 | 6,240 | 5,930 | 31.3 | 185,630 | 3.80 | 682,522 | 2,526,552 |
| Barley | 1994 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 44.0 | 52,800 | \$2.22 | \$117,216 | 374,862 |
| | 1995 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 52.0 | 62,400 | 3.00 | 187,200 | 359,562 |
| | 1996 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 43.0 | 51,600 | **3.07 | 158,412 | 395,751 |
| | 1997 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 53.0 | 63,600 | 2.85 | 181,260 | 374,478 |
| Oats | 1994 | 140 | 75 | 48.0 | 3,600 | \$1.30 | \$4,680 | 229,008 |
| | 1995 | 145 | 80 | 59.0 | 4,720 | 1.75 | 8,260 | 162,027 |
| | 1996 | *100 | 50 | 40.0 | 2,000 | 1.91 | 3,820 | 155,273 |
| | 1997 | 140 | 70 | 55.0 | 3,850 | 1.25 | 4,813 | 176,104 |
| Corn for Grain 2/ | 1994 | 60 | 20 | 135.0 | 2,700 | \$2.65 | \$7,155 | 10,102,735 |
| | 1995 | 55 | 16 | 120.0 | 1,920 | 3.00 | 5,760 | 7,373,876 |
| | 1996 | *55 | 15 | **137.0 | 2,055 | 2.60 | 5,343 | 9,293,435 |
| | 1997 | 60 | 14 | 135.0 | 1,890 | 2.60 | 4,914 | 9,365,574 |
| | | Thousands | | Tons | Thousands | | Thousands | Thousands |
| Corn for Silage | 1994 | -- | 39 | 21.0 | 819 | -- | -- | 88,588 |
| | 1995 | -- | 38 | 20.0 | 760 | -- | -- | 77,867 |
| | 1996 | -- | 39 | 21.0 | 819 | -- | -- | 83,594 |
| | 1997 | -- | 45 | **21.0 | 945 | -- | -- | 91,903 |
| Sugar Beets | 1994 | 54.3 | 54.0 | **24.2 | 1,307 | \$41.90 | \$54,763 | 31,853 |
| | 1995 | 55.7 | 55.5 | 21.5 | 1,193 | 39.90 | 47,601 | 28,065 |
| | 1996 | 57.7 | 57.5 | 22.6 | 1,300 | 48.10 | 62,530 | 26,680 |
| | 1997 | 59.9 | 58.3 | 21.0 | 1,224 | -- | -- | 29,874 |
| Alfalfa Hay | 1994 | -- | 1,550 | 2.30 | 3,565 | \$71.50 | \$254,898 | 81,336 |
| | 1995 | -- | 1,600 | 2.50 | **4,000 | 67.50 | 270,000 | 84,515 |
| | 1996 | -- | **1,700 | 2.10 | 3,570 | 81.00 | 289,170 | 79,517 |
| | 1997 | -- | 1,650 | 2.40 | 3,960 | 82.00 | 324,720 | 79,242 |
| Other Hay | 1994 | -- | *650 | 1.50 | 975 | \$62.50 | \$60,938 | 68,724 |
| | 1995 | -- | 800 | **1.70 | 1,360 | 56.50 | 76,840 | 69,651 |
| | 1996 | -- | 900 | 1.50 | 1,350 | 67.00 | 90,450 | 69,940 |
| | 1997 | -- | 950 | 1.60 | 1,520 | 70.50 | 107,160 | 72,878 |
| All Hay 3 | 1994 | -- | 2,200 | 2.06 | 4,540 | \$71.00 | \$315,836 | 150,060 |
| | 1995 | -- | 2,400 | **2.23 | 5,360 | 66.00 | 346,840 | 154,166 |
| | 1996 | -- | 2,600 | 1.89 | 4,920 | 80.00 | 379,620 | 149,457 |
| | 1997 | -- | **2,600 | 2.11 | **5,480 | 81.00 | **431,880 | 152,120 |
| Sweet Cherries 4 | 1994 | -- | -- | -- | 640 | \$1,200.00 | \$770 | 192,910 |
| | 1995 | -- | -- | -- | 760 | 1,210.00 | 916 | 153,070 |
| | 1996 | -- | -- | -- | 630 | 1,420.00 | 893 | 151,880 |
| | 1997 | -- | -- | -- | 970 | 965.00 | 936 | 220,370 |
| | | Thousands | | Cwt. | Thousands | | Thousands | Thousands |
| Fall Potatoes | 1994 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 320.0 | 3,200 | \$6.90 | \$22,080 | 424,655 |
| | 1995 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 300.0 | 2,940 | 9.35 | 27,489 | 403,009 |
| | 1996 | 10.4 | 10.2 | 315.0 | 3,213 | 6.60 | 21,206 | 453,436 |
| | 1997 | 10.4 | 10.4 | **320.0 | **3,328 | 8.85 | **29,453 | 417,088 |
| Dry Beans | 1994 | 10.2 | 10.0 | 22.0 | 220 | \$16.90 | \$3,718 | 29,028 |
| | 1995 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 19.0 | 205 | 16.10 | 3,301 | 30,812 |
| | 1996 | 10.5 | 10.3 | **22.8 | 235 | 24.50 | 5,758 | 27,960 |
| | 1997 | 12.2 | 11.7 | 22.0 | 257 | 18.50 | 4,755 | 29,156 |

1 All estimates for 1997 are preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes 3/ Price of baled hay 4/ Utilized production in actual tons
 *Record low **Record high