



**NATIONAL  
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USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office  
PO Box 150969

Lakewood, CO 80215

Phone: (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202 FAX: (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

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# AG UPDATE

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## CROP PRODUCTION AUGUST 1, 2011

### Colorado Highlights

**Winter wheat** production is now forecast at 80.0 million bushels, up 8.0 million bushels from the July 1 forecast but down 24 percent from the 105.8 million bushels produced last year. Growers harvested an estimated 2.0 million acres this year with an average yield of 40.0 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels below the record high 45.0 bushels per acre attained last year. As harvest progressed, producers found higher yields than originally expected. Dry planting conditions last fall combined with dry, early spring growing conditions contributed to lower yield prospects, but timely moisture received from widespread thunderstorms and moderate temperatures led to an above average yield at harvest. **Barley** production is forecast at 8.4 million bushels, up nearly 1 percent from last year's crop. The area for harvest in 2011, at 67,000 acres, is also up from last year by 4,000 acres. Barley yield is estimated at 126.0 bushels per acre, 7.0 bushels below last year, but unchanged from the July 1 forecast.

**Corn** production is forecasted at 162.5 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year's 182.7 million bushels. The 1.25 million acres expected to be harvested for grain this year is 3 percent greater than a year ago. Average yield is expected to decrease 21.0 bushels per acre from last year to 130.0, due to dry growing conditions and a greater proportion of dryland acreage expected to be harvested for grain. **Sorghum** production in 2011 is forecast at 4.9 million bushels, down 34 percent from the 7.5 million bushel crop harvested a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 130,000 acres this year, down from 160,000 acres harvested last year. Dry conditions have lowered yield prospects 9.0 bushels below a year ago as producers expect to average 38.0 bushels per acre this year.

**Dry bean** production for 2011 is forecast at 627,000 hundredweight, down 50 percent from the 1,254,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 38,000 acres this year, down 28,000 acres from 66,000 acres last year. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 832,000 tons, up 1 percent from 823,000 tons produced in 2010. Growers expect to harvest 28,700 acres this year compared with 27,900 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 29.0 tons per acre, down from a record high 29.5 tons per acre a year ago.

Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 820,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, unchanged from 2010. They also expect to harvest 820,000 acres of **other hay** in 2011, up

## LAND VALUES

The 2011 **Colorado** average farmland real estate, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, was \$1,100 per acre according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is an increase of 1.9 percent from 2010 but equal to 2009. The average value of cropland was \$1,340, up 3.9 percent from 2010. Pasture values decreased 1.5 percent from 2010 to \$640 per acre.

The **United States** farm real estate value, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$2,350 per acre for 2011, up 6.8 percent from 2010. Regional changes in the average value of farm real estate ranged from a 15.9 percent increase in the Corn Belt region to a 2 percent decline in the Southeast region. The highest farm real estate values remained in the Northeast region at \$4,690 per acre. The Mountain region had the lowest farm real estate value, \$923 per acre.

The **United States** cropland value increased by \$260 per acre (9.4 percent) to \$3,030 per acre. In the Northern Plains and Corn Belt regions, the average cropland value increased 17.2 and 16 percent, respectively, from the previous year. However, in the Northeast and Southeast regions, cropland values decreased by 1.3 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively.

The **United States** pasture value increased to \$1,100 per acre or 1.9 percent above 2010. The Southeast region had the largest percentage decrease in pasture value, 8.4 percent below 2010. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions had the highest percentage increase, both 6.6 percent above 2010.

## CASH RENTS

Average cash rent for irrigated cropland in **Colorado** was \$115.00 per acre in 2011, \$5.00 more than the previous year. Average cash rent for non-irrigated cropland in Colorado was \$23.00 per acre in 2011, the same as the previous year. Cash rent for pasture in 2011 averaged \$4.50, down from \$5.00 in 2010.

40,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 2.71 million tons compared with 2.87 million tons produced in 2010 and other hay is estimated at 1.15 million tons, down 2 percent from 1.17 million tons a year ago. Yields are expected to average 3.3 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.4 tons per acre for other hay. Colorado's **apple** production for this year is forecast at 11.0 million pounds, down from 14.0 million pounds produced last year. Late frosts and hail storms that occurred in the major growing areas reduced expected production.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**All wheat** production, at 2.08 billion bushels, is down 1 percent from the July forecast and down 6 percent from 2010. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 45.2 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month but down 1.2 bushels from last year. Production of **winter wheat** is forecast at 1.50 billion bushels, up slightly from the July 1 forecast and up 1 percent from 2010. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month but down 0.5 bushel from last year. Expected grain area totals 32.3 million acres, up 2 percent from last year but unchanged from last month. Harvest in the 18 major producing States was 81 percent complete by July 31, two points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was virtually complete by the end of July in all major Hard Red Winter (HRW) States except Montana and South Dakota, where harvest was 32 and 4 points behind normal, respectively. As the crop lagged behind normal crop development much of the growing season due to cool, wet spring conditions, harvest was just getting underway in Montana by July 31. Yield decreases from last month in the HRW growing areas are expected in the Northern Great Plains. Production of **other spring wheat** is forecast at 522 million bushels, down 5 percent from last month and down 15 percent from last year. The United States yield is forecast at 42.5 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushel from last month but down 3.6 bushels from 2010. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 12.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last month and down 8 percent from last year.

Production of **barley** for 2011 is forecast at 168 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July forecast and 7 percent from 2010. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 70.4 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushel from July but 2.7 bushels below last year's record high. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.39 million acres, is down 4 percent from the previous forecast and down 3 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the smallest harvested area since 1881.

**Corn** production is forecast at 12.9 billion bushels, up 4 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the third largest production total on record for the United States. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 153.0 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from 2010, and the fourth highest yield on record. Acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 92.3 million acres, unchanged from the June estimate. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 84.4

million acres, down less than 1 percent from June but up 4 percent from 2010. As of July 31, sixty-two percent of the corn acreage was rated in good to excellent condition in the 18 major producing States, compared with 71 percent rated in these two categories last year at this time. Thirteen of the 18 States reported less acreage rated in good to excellent condition compared with the same time last year, with the largest declines reported in Kansas and Texas due to an extended drought and above normal temperatures. Production of **sorghum** is forecast at 241 million bushels, down 30 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest production since 1956. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 4.39 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous forecast and down 9 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the lowest harvested acreage level since 1936. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 54.8 bushels per acre, down 17 bushels from last year.

United States **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 20.5 million hundredweight for 2011, down 36 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.27 million acres, down 34 percent from the previous year. Harvested area is forecast at 1.19 million acres, down 35 percent from the previous year's harvested acreage. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,718 pounds per acre, a decrease of 8 pounds from 2010. **Soybean** production is forecast at 3.06 billion bushels, down 8 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from last year. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 73.8 million acres, down less than 1 percent from June and down 4 percent from 2010. Planted area for the Nation is estimated at 75.0 million acres, down fractionally from June.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2011 crop year is forecast at 30.4 million tons, down 5 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.25 million acres, up 1 percent from the June *Acreage* report and up 7 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous estimate and up 5 percent from 2010. Expected yield is forecast at 25.0 tons per acre, a decrease of 2.6 tons from last year.

**Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** production is forecast at 65.0 million tons, down 4 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.36 tons per acre, down 0.04 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield since 2005. Harvested area is forecast at 19.3 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but down 3 percent from the previous year's acreage. **Other hay** production is forecast at 67.0 million tons, down 14 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production level since 1993. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.75 tons per acre, down 0.20 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States yield since 1988. Harvested area is forecast at 38.3 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but down 4 percent from last year.

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**Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2010-2011**

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2010	2011	2010	2011		2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
<b>Colorado:</b>									
All Corn <u>1/</u> .....	1,330	1,400	1,210	1,250	Bu.	151.0	130.0	182,710	162,500
All Sorghum <u>1/</u> .....	210	190	160	130	Bu.	47.0	38.0	7,520	4,940
All Wheat.....	2,478	2,380	2,377	2,029	Bu.	45.5	5/	108,234	5/
Winter Wheat.....	2,450	2,350	2,350	2,000	Bu.	45.0	40.0	105,750	80,000
Spring Wheat.....	28	30	27	5/	Bu.	92.0	5/	2,484	5/
Oats.....	55	55	9	5/	Bu.	65.0	5/	585	5/
Barley.....	64	68	63	67	Bu.	133.0	126.0	8,379	8,442
Proso Millet.....	220	190	215	4/	Bu.	33.0	4/	7,095	4/
All Hay.....	...	...	1,600	1,640	Tons	2.53	4/	4,040	4/
Alfalfa Hay.....	...	...	820	820	Tons	3.5	3.3	2,870	2,706
Other Hay.....	...	...	780	820	Tons	1.5	1.4	1,170	1,148
Sugarbeets.....	28.9	29.3	27.9	28.7	Tons	29.5	29.0	823	832
Dry edible beans.....	70	40	66.0	38.0	Cwt.	19.0	16.5	1,254	627
Sunflowers, All.....	132	138	127	126	Lbs.	1,322	6/	167,950	6/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	95	115	92	105	Lbs.	1,350	6/	124,200	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil.....	37	23	35	21	Lbs.	1,250	6/	43,750	6/
All potatoes.....	7/	7/	7/	7/	Cwt.	7/	7/	7/	7/
Summer potatoes.....	4.0	4.5	3.8	4.4	Cwt.	370.0	360.0	1,406	1,584
Fall potatoes.....	55.5	54.0	55.2	53.8	Cwt.	390	7/	21,528	7/
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	14,000	11,000
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	14	13
<b>United States:</b>									
All Corn <u>1/</u> .....	88,192	92,282	81,446	84,388	Bu.	152.8	153.0	12,446,865	12,914,085
All Sorghum <u>1/</u> .....	5,404	5,345	4,808	4,388	Bu.	71.8	54.8	345,395	240,638
All Wheat <u>2/</u> .....	53,603	55,183	47,637	45,924	Bu.	46.4	45.2	2,208,391	2,076,534
Winter Wheat.....	37,335	41,108	31,749	32,307	Bu.	46.8	46.3	1,485,236	1,497,429
Spring Wheat.....	13,698	12,677	13,359	12,270	Bu.	46.1	42.5	615,975	521,975
Oats.....	3,138	2,587	1,263	934	Bu.	64.3	61.6	81,190	57,489
Barley.....	2,872	2,725	2,465	2,390	Bu.	73.1	70.4	180,268	168,218
Rye.....	1,211	1,252	265	242	Bu.	28.0	5/	7,431	5/
Proso Millet.....	390	320	363	4/	Bu.	31.8	4/	11,535	4/
All Hay.....	...	...	59,862	57,605	Tons	2.43	2.29	145,556	131,998
Alfalfa Hay.....	...	...	19,956	19,329	Tons	3.40	3.36	67,903	64,996
Other Hay.....	...	...	39,906	38,276	Tons	1.95	1.75	77,653	67,002
Sugarbeets.....	1,171.4	1,249.6	1,155.7	1,216.6	Tons	27.6	25.0	31,901	30,393
Dry edible beans.....	1,911.4	1,265.2	1,842.7	1,190.2	Cwt.	17.3	17.2	31,801	20,451
Sunflowers, All.....	1,951.5	1,756.0	1,873.8	1,670.5	Lbs.	1,460	6/	2,735,570	6/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	1,463.0	1,450.0	1,422.5	1,387.0	Lbs.	1,458	6/	2,074,500	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil.....	488.5	306.0	451.3	283.5	Lbs.	1,465	6/	661,070	6/
All potatoes <u>3/</u> .....	1,021.5	1,082.6	1,004.7	1,065.3	Cwt.	395	7/	397,189	7/
Summer potatoes.....	39.0	40.9	37.5	38.7	Cwt.	310	313	11,642	12,112
Fall potatoes.....	893.7	948.6	881.3	936.1	Cwt.	409	7/	360,727	7/
Soybeans.....	77,404	74,958	76,616	73,823	Bu.	43.5	41.4	3,329,341	3,055,882
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,301,600	9,511,800
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,150	1,129

1/ Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain. 2/ Includes Durum Wheat. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops.  
4/ January 2012. 5/ September 30, 2011. 6/ October 12, 2011. 7/ November 9, 2011.

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**UPCOMING REPORTS**

The United States **apple** forecast for the 2011 crop year is 9.51 billion pounds, up 2 percent from last year. Production in the Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) is forecast at 5.88 billion pounds, down 3 percent from last year. Washington experienced a cold and wet spring which is expected to keep production below full potential this year. Oregon's production is expected to be below last year mostly due to a hard freeze during pollination.

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the

Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Aug. 19 - Mushrooms
- Aug. 19 - Cattle on Feed
- Aug. 22 - Chicken and Eggs
- Aug. 22 - US and Canadian Hogs
- Aug. 22 - US and Canadian Cattle
- Aug. 22 - Cold Storage
- Aug. 26 - Livestock Slaughter
- Aug. 31 - Agricultural Prices

**MILK PRODUCTION  
JULY 2011**

Milk production in **Colorado** during July 2011 totaled 258 million pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. The average number of milk cows for July of this year was 128,000 head, up 9,000 head from July 2010. Production per cow averaged 2,015 pounds for July, down 35 pounds from last year.

**William Meyer**  
Director

**Rodger Ott**  
Deputy Director

Milk production in the **23 major States** during July totaled 15.4 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from July 2010. June revised production at 15.4 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent from June 2010. The June revision represented a decrease of 5 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,824 pounds for July, 5 pounds below July 2010. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 93,000 head more than July 2010, and 8,000 head more than June 2011.

**Milk Production, July, 2010-2011**

Item	Unit	2010	2011
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u> .....	1,000 Head	119	128
Production Per Cow .....	Pounds	2,050	2,015
Production <u>2/</u> .....	Mil. Lbs.	244	258
<b>23 State Total:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u> .....	1,000 Head	8,375	8,468
Production Per Cow .....	Pounds	1,829	1,824
Production <u>2/</u> .....	Mil. Lbs.	15,316	15,445

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.