



**NATIONAL
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CROP PRODUCTION AUGUST 1, 2012

Colorado Highlights

Winter wheat production is forecast at 83.3 million bushels, unchanged from the July 1 forecast but up 7 percent from the 78.0 million bushels produced last year. Growers harvested an estimated 2.3 million acres this year with an average yield of 37.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels below the 39.0 bushels per acre attained last year. Seeding conditions last fall were good with adequate moisture that promoted germination and a good stand. Above normal temperatures in May and June accelerated crop development bringing the harvest 10-14 days ahead of normal. Harvest commenced two weeks early and was basically complete by the first week of July, a record early harvest. **Barley** production is forecast at 6.9 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year's crop. The area for harvest in 2012, at 55,000 acres, is also down from last year by 8,000 acres. Barley yield is estimated at 125.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel below last year, but unchanged from the July 1 forecast.

Corn production is forecast at 131.0 million bushels, down 24 percent from last year's 172.9 million bushels. The 970,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain this year is 25 percent below a year ago and also down 20 percent from the June forecast. The widespread hot and dry conditions this year had an adverse affect on the crop, particularly on dryland plantings forcing farmers to consider grazing, abandonment or harvest for forage instead of grain. Average yield is expected to increase 2.0 bushels per acre from last year to 135.0, due to a greater proportion of irrigated acreage expected for grain. If realized, this would be the lowest corn production since 2003 when Colorado produced 120.2 million bushels. **Sorghum** production in 2012 is forecast at 4.3 million bushels, down 12 percent from the 4.9 million bushel crop harvested a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 160,000 acres this year, up from 140,000 acres harvested last year, but down 10,000 acres from the June forecast. The dry conditions have lowered yield prospects 8.0 bushels below a year ago as producers expect to average 27.0 bushels per acre this year.

Dry bean production for 2012 is forecast at 729,000 hundredweight, up 25 percent from the 585,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,620 pounds per acre up from 1,580 pounds per acre attained last year. Growers expect to harvest 45,000 acres this year, up 8,000 acres from 37,000 acres last year but down 2,000 acres from the June forecast. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 1.0 million tons, up 21 percent from 829,000 tons produced in 2011. Growers expect to harvest 29,700 acres this year compared with 28,700 a year ago. Yields are expected to average a record high of 33.9 tons per acre, up from 28.9 tons per acre a year ago. If realized, this would be the largest sugarbeet crop since 2000 in Colorado.

Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 790,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year down 10,000 acres from 2011. They also expect to harvest 710,000 acres of **other hay** in 2012, down 110,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 2.53 million tons compared with 2.88 million tons produced in 2011 and other hay is estimated at 994,000 tons, down 19 percent from 1.23 million tons a year ago. Yields are expected to average 3.2 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.4 tons per acre for other hay, both down from 3.6 tons per acre and 1.5 tons per acre last year, respectively.

Colorado's **apple** production for this year is forecast at 17.0 million pounds up from a frost reduced 9.0 million pound crop last year. **Peach** production is expected to bring 15,000 tons in Colorado this year compared with 12,000 tons produced in 2011.

United States Highlights

All wheat production, at 2.27 billion bushels, is up 2 percent from the July forecast and up 13 percent from 2011. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 46.5 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from last month and up 2.8 bushels from last year. Production of **winter wheat** is forecast at 1.68 billion bushels, up 1 percent from July and up 13 percent from 2011. Based on August 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at a record high 48.0 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and 1.8 bushels higher than last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain or seed totals 35.0 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 8 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter, at 1.01 billion bushels, is up slightly from a month ago. Soft Red Winter production is up 1 percent from the previous forecast and now totals 435 million bushels. White Winter production totals 236 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month. Of this total, 13.9 million bushels are Hard White and 222 million bushels are Soft White.

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Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2011-2012

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012		2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
Colorado:									
All Corn 1/	1,500	1,420	1300	970	Bu.	133.0	135.0	172,900	130,950
All Sorghum 1/	220	230	140	160	Bu.	35.0	27.0	4,900	4,320
All Wheat	2,345	2,420	2,044	2,269	Bu.	40.0	5/	81,828	5/
Winter Wheat	2,300	2,400	2,000	2,250	Bu.	39.0	37.0	78,000	83,250
Spring Wheat	45	20	44	5/	Bu.	87.0	5/	3,828	5/
Oats	45	50	10	5/	Bu.	70.0	5/	700	5/
Barley.....	66	58	63	55	Bu.	126.0	125.0	7,938	6,875
Proso Millet.....	250	200	230	4/	Bu.	27.0	4/	6,210	4/
All Hay.....	...	...	1,620	1,540	Tons	2.54	4/	4,110	4/
Alfalfa Hay.....	...	...	800	790	Tons	3.60	3.20	2,880	2,528
Other Hay.....	...	...	820	710	Tons	1.5	1.4	1,230	994
Sugarbeets.....	29.4	31.2	28.7	29.7	Tons	28.9	33.9	829	1,007
Dry edible beans	38.0	50.0	37.0	45.0	Lbs.	15.8	16.2	585	729
Sunflowers, All	128	85	113	79	Lbs.	1,099	6/	124,200	6/
Sunflowers, Oil	110	75	97	70	Lbs.	1,000	6/	97,000	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	18	10	16	9	Lbs.	1,700	6/	27,200	6/
All potatoes	58.5	60.5	58.3	60.3	Cwt.	393	7/	22,919	7/
Summer potatoes.....	4.5	5.4	4.4	5.3	Cwt.	370.0	380.0	1,628	2,014
Fall potatoes	54.0	55.1	53.9	55.0	Cwt.	395	7/	21,291	7/
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,000	17,000
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	12	15
United States:									
All Corn 1/	91,921	96,405	83,981	87,361	Bu.	147.2	123.4	12,358,412	10,778,589
All Sorghum 1/	5,481	6,210	3,929	5,098	Bu.	54.6	48.6	214,443	247,627
All Wheat 2/	54,409	56,017	45,705	48,826	Bu.	47.3	46.5	1,999,347	2,268,246
Winter Wheat	40,646	41,819	32,314	35,023	Bu.	46.2	48.0	1,493,677	1,682,726
Spring Wheat	12,394	11,995	12,079	11,681	Bu.	37.7	42.8	455,188	499,510
Oats	2,496	2,746	939	1,091	Bu.	57.1	61.0	53,649	66,519
Barley.....	2,559	3,678	2,239	3,268	Bu.	69.6	67.6	155,780	221,019
Rye	1,266	1,251	242	275	Bu.	26.1	5/	6,326	5/
Proso Millet.....	370	315	338	4/	Bu.	27.1	4/	9,149	4/
All Hay.....	...	...	55,633	57,574	Tons	2.36	2.09	131,144	120,343
Alfalfa Hay.....	...	...	19,213	18,812	Tons	3.40	2.92	65,332	54,895
Other Hay.....	...	...	36,420	38,792	Tons	1.81	1.69	65,812	65,448
Sugarbeets.....	1,232.7	1,243.5	1,213.1	1,215.5	Tons	23.8	29.1	28,828	35,336
Dry edible beans	1,205.9	1,714.7	1,155.9	1,673.5	Cwt.	17.2	16.1	19,833	27,016
Sunflowers, All	1,543.0	1,804.5	1,457.8	1,735.4	Lbs.	1,398	6/	2,038,275	6/
Sunflowers, Oil	1,289.5	1,496.0	1,233.4	1,451.0	Lbs.	1,397	6/	1,722,675	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	253.5	308.5	224.4	284.4	Lbs.	1,406	6/	315,600	6/
All potatoes 3/	1,098.9	1,149.0	1,076.7	1,134.4	Cwt.	397	7/	427,406	7/
Summer potatoes.....	48.2	48.4	46.0	47.5	Cwt.	282	342	12,960	16,261
Fall potatoes	957.4	1,002.9	939.2	990.8	Cwt.	414	7/	388,873	7/
Soybeans	74,976	76,080	73,636	74,635	Bu.	41.5	36.1	3,056,032	2,692,014
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,420,000	8,065,700
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,071	1,023

1/ Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain. 2/ Includes Durum Wheat. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops. 4/ January 2013. 5/ September 30, 2012. 6/ October 12, 2012. 7/ November 9, 2012.

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Production of **other spring wheat** is forecast at 500 million bushels, up 6 percent from the July forecast and up 10 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 11.7 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 3 percent from last year. The United States yield is forecast at 42.8 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from last month and 5.1 bushels above 2011. Of the total production, 463 million bushels are Hard Red Spring Wheat, up 6 percent from last month and up 16 percent from last year.

Production of **barley** for 2012 barley crop is forecast at 221 million bushels, up 2 percent from the July forecast and 42 percent from 2011. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 67.6 bushels per acre, up 1.3 bushels from July but down 2.0 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 3.27 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 46 percent from 2011.

Corn production is forecast at 10.8 billion bushels, down 13 percent from 2011 and the lowest production since 2006. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 123.4 bushels per acre, down 23.8 bushels from 2011. If realized, this will be the lowest average yield since 1995. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 87.4 million acres, down 2 percent from the June forecast but up 4 percent from 2011. Production of **sorghum** is forecast at 248 million bushels, up 15 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 5.10 million acres, down 3 percent from June but up 30 percent from 2011. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 48.6 bushels per acre, down 6 bushels from last year. A record high yield is forecast in Louisiana, where farmers reported mostly favorable growing conditions.

United States **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 27.0 million cwt for 2012, up 36 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.71 million acres, up 42 percent from 2011. Harvested area is forecast at 1.67 million acres, 45 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,614 pounds per acre, a decrease of 102 pounds from 2011. **Soybean** production is forecast at 2.69 billion bushels, down 12 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 36.1 bushels per acre, down 5.4 bushels from last year. If realized, the average yield will be the lowest since 2003. Area for harvest is forecast at 74.6 million acres, down 1 percent from June but up 1 percent from 2011. Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2012 crop year is forecast at 35.3 million tons, up 23 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.24 million acres, down slightly from the June *Acreege* report but up 1 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres, down slightly from the previous forecast but up slightly from 2011. Expected yield is forecast at 29.1 tons per acre, an increase of 5.3 tons from last year. If realized, this will be a record yield for the United States.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** is forecast at 54.9 million tons, down 16 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production level since 1953. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 2.92 tons per acre, down 0.48 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States yield since 1988. Harvested area is forecast at 18.8 million acres, unchanged from June but down 2 percent from 2011. **Other hay** production is forecast at 65.4 million tons, down less than 1 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production level since 1990. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.69 tons per acre, down 0.12 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States yield since 1988. Harvested area is forecast at 38.8 million acres, unchanged from June but up 6 percent from last year.

The United States **apple** production for the 2012 crop year is forecast at 8.06 billion pounds, down 14 percent from 2011. Production in the Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) is forecast at 6.21 billion pounds, up 6 percent from last year. Washington growers experienced a relatively normal growing season, without losses from freezes or frost, and with good pollination weather. Production in Oregon is up from last year, contrary to the typical alternate bearing pattern. United States **peach** production is forecast at 1.02 million tons, down 5 percent from 2011. California experienced an adequate number of chilling hours, thus benefiting the Freestone crop. Cool weather and rain during the spring also aided the crop. Higher labor costs and a lack of workers to thin the Clingstone crop were a concern for growers as the good crop set required a great deal of thinning. Harvest is well underway. Sizes are reported to be small, resulting in slightly lower production from a year ago. In South Carolina, ninety-one percent of the crop had been harvested as of July 29, well ahead of the 5-year average of 70 percent. Scattered hail storms were reported during the season causing some damage, especially for upstate producers.

MILK PRODUCTION JULY 2012

Milk production in **Colorado** during July 2012 totaled 272 million pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. The average number of milk cows for July of this year was 133,000 head, up 5,000 head from July 2011. Production per cow averaged 2,045 pounds for July, up 35 pounds from last year.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during July totaled 15.5 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from July 2011. June revised production at 15.5 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from June 2011. The June revision represented an increase of 2 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,826 pounds for July, 6 pounds above July 2011. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.50 million head, 41,000 head more than July 2011, but 7,000 head less than June 2012.

Milk Production, July, 2011-2012

Item	Unit	2011	2012
Colorado:			
Milk Cows 1/	1,000 Head	128	133
Production Per Cow	Pounds	2,010	2,045
Production 2/.....	Mil. Lbs.	257	272
23 State Total:			
Milk Cows 1/	1,000 Head	8,459	8,500
Production Per Cow	Pounds	1,820	1,826
Production 2/.....	Mil. Lbs.	15,395	15,520

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

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

LAND VALUES

The 2012 **Colorado** average farmland real estate value, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, was \$1,170 per acre according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services. This is an increase of 6.4 percent from 2011, and 8.3 percent from 2010. The average value of cropland was \$1,450 up 8.2 percent from 2011. Pasture values were unchanged from 2011 at \$640 per acre.

The **United States** farm real estate value, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$2,650 per acre for 2012, up 10.9 percent from revised 2011 values. Regional changes in the average value of farm real estate ranged from a 26.7 percent increase in the Northern Plains region to a 4.1 percent decline in the Southeast region. The highest farm real estate values were in the Cornbelt region at \$5,560 per acre. The Mountain region had the lowest farm real estate value at \$974 per acre.

The **United States** cropland value increased by \$450 per acre (14.5 percent) to \$3,550 per acre. In the Northern Plains and Corn Belt regions, the average cropland value increased 31.1 and 18.5 percent, respectively, from the previous year. However, in the Southeast region, cropland values decreased by 3.8 percent.

The **United States** pasture value increased to \$1,150 per acre, or 4.5 percent above 2011. The Southeast region had the largest percentage decrease in pasture value, 7.0 percent below 2011. The Northern Plains had the highest increase at 21.9 percent.

CASH RENTS

Average cash rent for irrigated cropland in **Colorado** was \$125.00 per acre in 2012, \$10.00 more than the previous year. Average cash rent for non-irrigated cropland in Colorado was \$26.00 per acre in 2012 up \$3.00 from the previous year. Cash rent for pasture in 2012 averaged \$4.60 up from \$4.50 in 2011.

For a full copy of the land values report use the internet link provided below:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/AgriLandVa/AgriLandVa-08-03-2012.pdf>

For more cash rents information, use NASS's "QuickStats" database which can

be found here: <http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>

UPCOMING REPORTS

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. 17 - Cattle on Feed
- Aug. 20 - Mushrooms
- Aug. 21 - Chicken and Eggs
- Aug. 21 - US and Canadian Hogs
- Aug. 21 - US and Canadian Cattle
- Aug. 22 - Cold Storage
- Aug. 24 - Livestock Slaughter
- Aug. 31 - Agricultural Prices
- Sept. 6 - Vegetables

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