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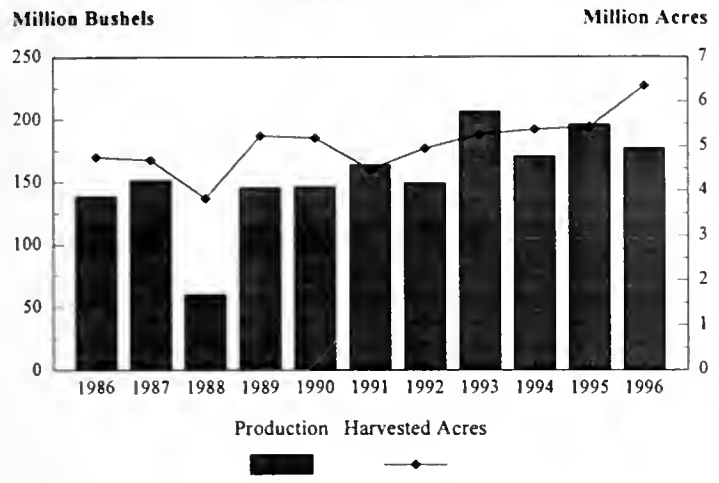
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PRODUCTION

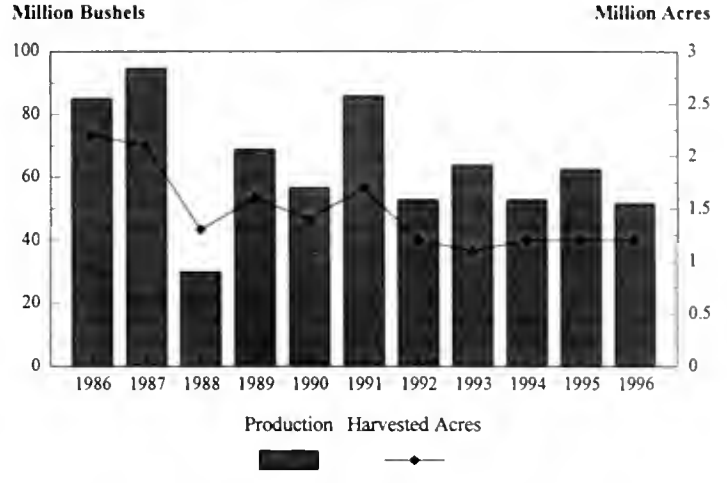
Annual Summary 1996
Released: March 17, 1997

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Montana All Wheat



Montana Barley



ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION - 1996

Montana wheat growers planted the largest wheat acreage on record for the 1996 season. A more lenient farm bill and strong wheat prices were the major factors for the increase. Producers planted 6.63 million acres of wheat, up 16% from 1995 and up nearly 5% from the previous record in 1989. What started out to be another record production year was hurt by drought-like conditions across the state beginning in July. Yield forecast dropped monthly as very little rain fell. Total all wheat production was estimated at 176.71 million bushels, off 10% from last year's very large output.

Growers were able to plant a more normal winter wheat acreage in the fall of 1995 with better seeding conditions than the last few years. Winter wheat planted acreage was set at 2.15 million acres with growers able to harvest 1.98 million acres.

Winter wheat planted acreage was up 650,000 acres from the 1995 season. Yield was estimated at 32 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels from last year. Total production was set at 63.36 million bushels, up 16% from last year only because of the large increase in acreage.

Other spring wheat planted acreage was set at 4.2 million acres, the largest acreage since 1953 when other spring wheat and durum wheat were recorded together. Harvested acreage was set at 4.1 million acres. Total production was estimated at 106.6 million bushels, the third largest other spring wheat crop on record, but again only due to the large amount of acreage planted. Yield for other spring wheat was set at 26 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels from last year.

Durum wheat planted acreage was estimated at 280,000 acres planted, with 270,000 harvested. Planted acreage is up 4% from last year. Total

production was 6.75 million bushels, down 15% from last year, yields averaged 25 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year.

Barley production totaled 51.6 million bushels, down 17% from last year. Yields averaged 43 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels from 1995. Growers planted 1.3 million acres and harvested 1.2 million acres--both acreages are unchanged from 1995.

Oat production was set at its lowest level since 1889, with total production at 2.0 million bushels. Total production was down 58% from a year ago. Planted acreage was set at 100,000 acres, the lowest level since records began for planted acres in 1929, and down 45,000 from last year. Farmers harvested 50,000 acres, the smallest acreage since 1885. Yields averaged 40 bushels per acre, down 19 bushels from last year.

MONTANA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY, 1993-96 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg Price	Value of Production	US Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		Thousands	Thousands	Bushels	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Winter Wheat	1993	2,650	2,450	**42.0	102,900	\$3.26	\$335,454	1,760,143
	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	3.80	240,768	1,478,048
Durum Wheat	1993	115	114	31.0	3,534	\$4.83	\$17,069	70,476
	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	280	270	25.0	6,750	4.20	28,350	115,840
Other Spring Wheat	1993	2,800	2,700	**37.0	99,900	\$3.63	\$362,637	565,821
	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	4.15	442,390	687,875
All Wheat	1993	5,565	5,264	**39.2	**206,334	\$3.50	\$715,160	2,396,440
	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	**6,630	**6,350	27.8	176,710	4.00	711,508	2,281,763
Barley	1993	1,300	1,100	**58.0	63,800	\$2.06	\$131,428	398,041
	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	**3.00	154,800	396,851
Oats	1993	140	85	**65.0	5,525	\$1.41	\$7,790	206,770
	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	1.70	3,400	155,225
Corn for Grain 2/	1993	65	8	105.0	840	\$2.90	\$2,436	6,336,470
	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
		Thousands	Thousands	Tons	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Corn for Silage	1993	-	55	18.0	990	-	-	81,289
	1994	-	39	**21.0	819	-	-	88,588
	1995	-	38	20.0	760	-	-	77,867
	1996	-	39	**21.0	819	-	-	83,094
Sugar Beets	1993	54.4	54.1	21.6	1,169	\$43.60	\$50,968	26,249
	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	-	-	26,570
Alfalfa Hay	1993	-	1,450	2.40	3,480	\$69.50	\$241,860	80,305
	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	70.00	249,900	79,377
Other Hay	1993	-	780	**1.70	1,326	\$59.00	\$78,234	66,494
	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	57.00	76,950	70,080
All Hay 3/	1993	-	2,230	2.16	4,806	\$68.00	\$320,094	146,799
	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	69.00	326,850	149,457
Sweet Cherries 4/	1993	-	-	-	105	\$1,590.00	\$167	160,575
	1994	-	-	-	640	1,200.00	770	192,910
	1995	-	-	-	760	1,210.00	916	153,070
	1996	-	-	-	630	1,420.00	893	151,880
		Thousands	Thousands	Cwt.	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Fall Potatoes	1993	9.1	9.0	300.0	2,700	\$8.95	\$24,165	391,565
	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	6.45	20,724	452,039
Dry Beans	1993	12.0	11.0	14.1	155	\$27.30	\$4,232	21,913
	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	27,354

1/ All estimates for 1996 are preliminary, and season average price and value of production are not available. 2/ Planted for all purposes 3/ Price of baled hay 4/ Utilized production in actual tons *Record low **Record high