

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: CR15-3

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Branch monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

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## November 2015 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta

On December 4, 2015, Statistics Canada released the November estimates of crop production for 2015.

### Key Messages

- The 2015 crop season in Alberta started with a dry spring followed by a hot summer with limited moisture which had an adverse impact on crop growth. However, as harvest progressed across the province yields were higher than what was expected earlier in the summer.
- In 2015, total production of selected principal field crops (including forages) was estimated at 26.9 million tonnes, down 12.3 per cent from 2014, and 7.3 per cent below the 10-year average (2005-2014). Excluding forages, total production of major crops was 20.8 million tonnes, down 7.4 per cent from last year, and 2.7 per cent above the 10-year average.
- Spring wheat production declined 13.4 per cent to 7.2 million tonnes, due to both lower yield and harvested area.
- Barley production increased 3.8 per cent to 4.3 million tonnes due to higher yield and harvested area.
- Despite an increase in yield, canola production fell 6.1 per cent to 5.4 million tonnes, due to a decline in harvested area.
- Tame hay production fell by 31.5 per cent to 5.0 million tonnes in 2015. This is attributed to both lower yield and harvested area.

December 10, 2015

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**Total 2015 Crop Production Decreased in Alberta**

On December 4, 2015, Statistics Canada released its final 2015 estimates of crop production for Canada and provinces. Total production of principal field crops (including forages) in Alberta was estimated at 26.9 million tonnes in 2015, down 12.3 per cent from 2014 (see Table 1). Producers were challenged with a cold and dry spring followed by a hot summer with limited rainfall. Harvest operations were hampered due to rain during September. Also, the dry conditions in spring and early summer had a significant impact on tame hay yield. While crop production in 2015 was 2.7 per cent higher than the 10-year (2005-2014) average, forage production was 30.4 per cent below the 10-year average, resulting in a 7.3 per cent drop in total production of crop and forage from the 10-year average. Provincial average yields were generally lower than in 2014 (see Table 2) which was an above average year. Crop quality in general were about average. In 2015, total seeded and harvested areas of principal field crops in the province declined 0.6 per cent and 4.1 per cent, respectively.

**Table 1: Alberta Crop Production ('000 tonnes)**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015p	10-year Average	% change	
								15 vs 14	15 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	264.0	261.3	206.8	261.3	272.2	225.9	245.2	-17.0%	-7.9%
Spring Wheat	7,515.5	7,957.8	7,429.9	10,169.6	8,369.1	7,247.6	7,396.4	-13.4%	-2.0%
Durum Wheat	421.8	620.5	732.1	870.9	707.6	816.5	777.2	15.4%	5.1%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>8,201.3</b>	<b>8,839.6</b>	<b>8,368.8</b>	<b>11,301.8</b>	<b>9,348.9</b>	<b>8,290.0</b>	<b>8,418.8</b>	<b>-11.3%</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
Oats	647.7	738.7	518.2	601.5	542.9	393.3	606.2	-27.6%	-35.1%
Barley	4,528.7	4,668.0	4,463.3	5,545.4	4,131.3	4,289.2	4,737.6	3.8%	-9.5%
Fall Rye	50.8	54.0	34.3	36.3	30.9	33.0	47.5	6.8%	-30.5%
Mixed Grains	24.5	79.6	10.5	13.3	12.9	12.2	32.5	-5.4%	-62.5%
Flaxseed	30.5	54.7	41.9	73.7	87.6	83.8	45.6	-4.3%	83.9%
Canola	4,740.0	5,347.9	5,097.2	6,168.9	5,796.9	5,443.1	4,558.0	-6.1%	19.4%
Corn for Grain	0.0	35.6	35.6	66.0	91.4	87.6	39.3	-4.2%	123.1%
Dry Beans	31.5	44.0	44.7	48.1	66.0	47.9	49.2	-27.4%	-2.7%
Fababeans	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	107.5	81.6	39.1	-24.1%	108.7%
Dry Peas	982.5	805.6	1,208.4	1,321.3	1,475.1	1,314.5	888.9	-10.9%	47.9%
Lentils	82.0	76.0	68.1	110.3	84.4	138.0	66.9	63.5%	106.3%
Mustard Seed	47.7	26.8	35.9	37.2	59.4	31.9	37.8	-46.3%	-15.6%
Triticale	38.1	21.6	19.1	16.9	17.5	14.5	21.0	-17.1%	-30.9%
Sugar Beets	508.0	703.1	598.7	598.7	580.6	503.5	623.2	-13.3%	-19.2%
<b>All Crops</b>	<b>19,913.3</b>	<b>21,495.2</b>	<b>20,544.7</b>	<b>25,939.4</b>	<b>22,433.3</b>	<b>20,764.1</b>	<b>20,211.5</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Tame Hay	8,223.6	7,937.9	7,711.1	7,588.6	7,257.5	4,971.4	7,844.9	-31.5%	-36.6%
Fodder Corn	680.4	1,388.0	784.7	1,179.3	943.5	1,115.8	906.3	18.3%	23.1%
<b>All Forages</b>	<b>8,904.0</b>	<b>9,325.9</b>	<b>8,495.8</b>	<b>8,767.9</b>	<b>8,201.0</b>	<b>6,087.2</b>	<b>8,751.2</b>	<b>-25.8%</b>	<b>-30.4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,817.3</b>	<b>30,821.1</b>	<b>29,040.5</b>	<b>34,707.3</b>	<b>30,634.3</b>	<b>26,851.3</b>	<b>28,962.7</b>	<b>-12.3%</b>	<b>-7.3%</b>

**Production by Crop Type, Alberta**

Total production of **spring wheat** in 2015 decreased 13.4 per cent from 2014, to 7.2 million tonnes, and was 2.0 per cent lower than the 10-year average. The lower production stemmed from a decline in yield and harvested area. Yield was down 8.9 per cent, while harvested area declined 5.0 per cent from 2014. The provincial average yield was 47.2 bushels per acre and harvested area at 5.6 million acres. For **durum wheat**, production was up 15.4 per cent, to 816,500 tonnes. Durum production was 5.1 per cent higher than the 10-year average, due to increase in harvested area by 49.1 per cent to 805,000 acres. Average yield fell 22.5 per cent to 37.3 bushels per acre. Overall, production of **all wheat** was 8.3 million tonnes, a decrease of 11.3 per cent from 2014.

Total **barley** production increased to 4.3 million tonnes, up 3.8 per cent from last year. The higher production was attributed to a 1.9 per cent increase in yield to 68.6 bushels per acre, and a 1.8 per cent increase in harvested area at 2.9 million acres. Despite the increase in barley production, it was 9.5 per cent below the 10-year average.

Total **canola** production decreased 6.1 per cent from last year to 5.4 million tonnes, but was 19.4 per cent higher than the 10-year average. The decrease was due to lower harvested area, down 10.0 per cent to 6.0 million acres. Canola yield in 2015 was 39.7 bushel per acre, up 4.5 per cent from 2014 and 8.8 per cent from the 10-year average.

**Dry peas** production fell 10.9 per cent to 1.3 million tonnes. Harvested area was up 10.1 per cent to 1.4 million acres, while yield fell 19.0 per cent to 34.0 bushels per acre.

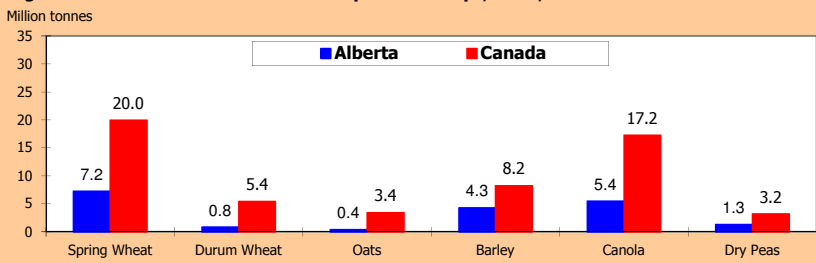
Total **oat** production fell 27.6 per cent to 393,300 tonnes, and was 35.1 per cent below the 10-year average. The decline was attributed to a 25.3 per cent drop in harvested area and yield falling 3.1 per cent.

**Tame hay** production fell 31.5 per cent to 5.0 million tonnes, 36.6 per cent below the 10-year average. The decline was attributed to a significant drop in yield as well as a decrease in harvested area. The average yield declined 23.5 per cent to 1.3 tons per acre, while harvested area was down 8.1 per cent to 4.2 million acres.

**Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield**

Crops	2014	2015p	2014	2015p	2014	2015p	10-year	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Seeded	Harvested	Harvested	Yield	Yield	Avg Yld	15 vs 14	15 vs Avg
	('000 acres)				(bushel/acre)				
Winter Wheat	170.0	150.0	170.0	150.0	58.8	55.3	53.8	-6.0%	2.7%
Spring Wheat	6,045.0	5,860.0	5,935.0	5,640.0	51.8	47.2	47.4	-8.9%	-0.5%
Durum Wheat	550.0	820.0	540.0	805.0	48.1	37.3	43.8	-22.5%	-14.9%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>6,790.0</b>	<b>6,850.0</b>	<b>6,645.0</b>	<b>6,595.0</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>-10.6%</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>
Oats	670.0	670.0	455.0	340.0	77.4	75.0	76.1	-3.1%	-1.4%
Barley	3,200.0	3,350.0	2,820.0	2,870.0	67.3	68.6	64.4	1.9%	6.5%
Fall Rye	40.0	45.0	30.0	30.0	40.5	43.3	42.4	6.9%	2.1%
Mixed Grains	100.0	80.0	10.0	10.0	63.0	60.0	60.4	-4.8%	-0.6%
Flaxseed	115.0	115.0	115.0	115.0	30.0	28.7	29.1	-4.3%	-1.3%
Canola	6,750.0	6,100.0	6,725.0	6,050.0	38.0	39.7	36.5	4.5%	8.8%
Corn for Grain	40.0	40.0	30.0	30.0	120.0	115.0	111.8	-4.2%	2.9%
Dry Beans	55.0	40.0	53.0	38.0	45.8	46.3	37.8	1.1%	22.7%
Fababeans	75.0	80.0	75.0	77.0	52.7	39.0	47.4	-25.9%	-17.8%
Dry Peas	1,300.0	1,445.0	1,290.0	1,420.0	42.0	34.0	39.7	-19.0%	-14.3%
Lentils	110.0	250.0	108.0	246.0	28.7	20.6	26.3	-28.2%	-21.6%
Mustard Seed	135.0	90.0	133.0	88.0	19.7	16.0	18.1	-18.8%	-11.5%
Triticale	30.0	35.0	15.0	10.0	46.0	57.0	47.4	23.9%	20.2%
					(tons/acre)				
Sugar Beets	20.0	18.0	20.0	18.0	32.0	31.0	25.4	-3.1%	21.9%
Tame Hay	4,900.0	4,875.0	4,595.0	4,225.0	1.7	1.3	1.7	-23.5%	-24.0%
Fodder Corn	80.0	90.0	60.0	65.0	17.3	18.9	17.3	9.2%	9.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,410.0</b>	<b>24,173.0</b>	<b>23,179.0</b>	<b>22,227.0</b>	---	---	---	---	---

**Figure 1: Production of Selected Principal Field Crops, 2015, Alberta and Canada**



**2015 Crop Production, Canada**

Total 2015 Canadian production was 20.0 million tonnes for spring wheat, 5.4 million tonnes for durum, 8.2 million tonnes for barley, 3.4 million tonnes for oats, 17.2 million tonnes for canola, and 3.2 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding. 10-year average refers to 2005 to 2014.

Source: Statistics Canada p - Preliminary bu - Bushels Avg - Average Yld - Yield

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