

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: CR12-2

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.

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[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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September Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta, 2012

On October 4, 2012, Statistics Canada released its second report entitled "Production of principal field crops, September 2012".

Key Messages

- Based on the report, total production of principal field crops in Alberta in 2012 is projected at 19.8 million tonnes. If realized, this would be down 2.8 per cent from 2011, but still 22.6 per cent above the 10-year average (2002-2011). The lower production primarily stems from anticipated lower yields.
- Spring wheat production is expected to be down 7.4 per cent, to 7.4 million tonnes, due to a decline in harvested area, as well as lower yields.
- Barley production is expected to be up 6.7 per cent, to 4.9 million tonnes, as harvested area is expected to be up 9.0 per cent. Oat production could fall 17.2 per cent, to 549,000 tonnes, due to a lower harvested area.
- Total canola production could drop by 6.4 per cent to 5.0 million tonnes. Even though the harvested acres are up, the decrease in production is attributed to lower yields.
- Production of dry peas is expected to increase 23.6 per cent to a record 995,400 tonnes, as a result of increased yields and harvested area.

Note: The September estimate is preliminary and is the second of three production estimates planned by Statistics Canada. The November estimates, which contain the third and final crop production statistics for the year, is scheduled for release on December 5, 2012.

October 12, 2012

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Total Alberta Crop Production could decrease in 2012

On October 4, 2012, Statistics Canada released its second report entitled "Production of principal field crops, September 2012." Based on the report, total 2012 production of principal field crops in Alberta could reach 19.8 million tonnes, and if realized will be down 2.8 per cent from last year, but still 22.6 per cent above the 10-year average (see Table 1). The decline in production stems from anticipated lower yields, despite total harvested area increasing from 2011. Even though provincial average yields are down from the previous year, they are still above their respective 10-year averages (see Table 2). Just to caution, these production estimates reflect yield potentials at the time the survey was conducted (September 4 to September 11, 2012) and are therefore subject to revision. This is the second of three crop production estimates. The November estimates, which contain the third and final crop production statistics for the year, is scheduled for release on December 5, 2012.

Table 1: Alberta Crop Production ('000 tonnes)

Crops	2007	2008	2009	2010r	2011r	2012p	10-year Average	% change	
								12 vs 11	12 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	175.5	386.5	266.7	264.0	261.3	197.3	208.2	-24.5%	-5.2%
Spring Wheat	5,230.6	7,272.0	6,180.6	7,484.3	8,027.5	7,436.0	6,230.0	-7.4%	19.4%
Durum Wheat	670.0	1,077.7	993.4	421.8	620.5	748.4	834.9	20.6%	-10.4%
All Wheat	6,076.1	8,736.2	7,440.7	8,170.1	8,909.3	8,381.7	7,273.1	-5.9%	15.2%
Oats	627.4	541.3	308.4	647.7	663.2	549.0	634.9	-17.2%	-13.5%
Barley	5,114.3	5,447.5	3,840.7	4,528.7	4,550.4	4,857.4	4,671.5	6.7%	4.0%
Fall Rye	36.8	76.2	38.1	50.8	43.2	..	55.8	..	..
Flaxseed	16.3	33.0	28.4	30.5	50.8	..	32.4	..	..
Canola	3,401.9	4,322.7	3,628.7	4,740.0	5,329.7	4,989.5	3,487.2	-6.4%	43.1%
Dry Peas	527.5	731.4	666.7	982.5	805.6	995.4	623.9	23.6%	59.5%
Total	15,800.3	19,888.3	15,951.7	19,150.3	20,352.2	19,773.0	16,122.0	-2.8%	22.6%

Production by Crop Type, Alberta

Total production of spring wheat could decline 7.4 per cent, to 7.4 million tonnes in 2012. The lower production stems from a decline in harvested area and reduced yields. The provincial average yield is projected at 48.0 bushels per acre, down 3.2 per cent from 2011, while harvested area is expected to drop 4.3 per cent, to 5.7 million acres. For durum wheat, production could increase 20.6 per cent, to 748,400 tonnes due to an increase in harvested area and yield. The provincial average yield is projected at 47.4 bushels per acre, up 10.2 per cent from 2011. Winter wheat production could fall to 197,300 tonnes, down 24.5 per cent from 2011, and 5.2 per cent below the 10-year average. The decline in production is due to a lower harvested area (down 27.8 per cent), despite the higher projected yield of 55.8 bushels per acre. Overall, total production of all wheat could reach 8.4 million tonnes, down 5.9 per cent over 2011, but still 15.2 per cent above the 10-year average.

Total barley production is projected at 4.9 million tonnes, up 6.7 per cent from last year, due to a 9.0 per cent increase in harvested area. The provincial average yield is projected at 65.6 bushels per acre, or 2.1 per cent lower than in 2011.

Total oat production is estimated at 549,000 tonnes, a decrease of 17.2 per cent from 2011. This is mainly attributed to a reduction in harvested area. The provincial average yield is projected to remain virtually flat at 81.8 bushels per acre, but well above the 10-year average.

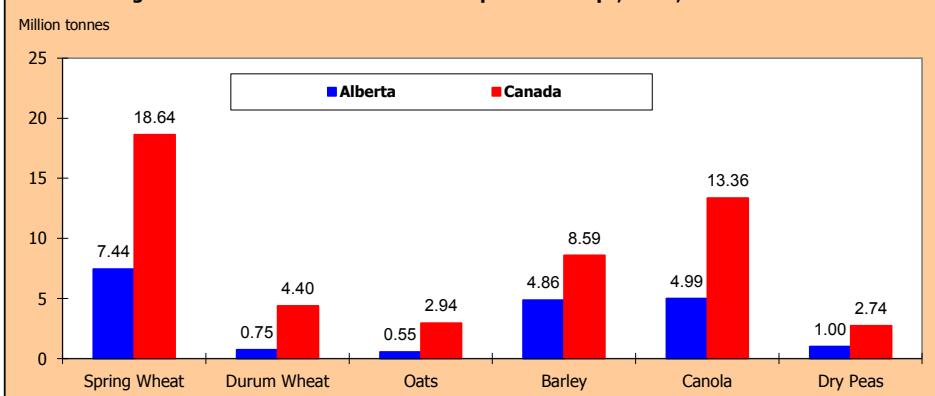
Total canola production could drop by 6.4 per cent to 5.0 million tonnes and is attributed to lower yields. Seeded and harvested acreage is estimated at 6.5 million acres and 6.3 million acres, respectively, both record highs. The provincial average yield is projected at 34.9 bushels per acre, or 10.5 per cent lower than in 2011, but still above the 10-year average.

Total production of dry peas is expected to increase 23.6 per cent, to a record 995,400 tonnes, due to a substantial increase in seeded and harvested areas. The provincial average yield is projected at 39.3 bushels per acre, 2.5 per cent lower than in 2011, but still above the 10-year average.

Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield

Crops	2011r		2011r		2012p		10-year Avg Yld	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Harvested	Yield	Seeded	Harvested	Yield		12 vs 11	12 vs Avg
	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)			
Winter Wheat	180.0	180.0	53.3	130.0	130.0	55.8	49.3	4.7%	13.3%
Spring Wheat	6,040.0	5,952.0	49.6	5,800.0	5,695.0	48.0	42.8	-3.2%	12.2%
Durum Wheat	540.0	530.0	43.0	600.0	580.0	47.4	40.1	10.2%	18.1%
All Wheat	6,785.0	6,662.0	49.1	6,545.0	6,405.0	48.1	42.6	-2.0%	12.8%
Oats	800.0	525.0	81.9	650.0	435.0	81.8	70.4	-0.1%	16.2%
Barley	3,500.0	3,120.0	67.0	3,800.0	3,400.0	65.6	60.4	-2.1%	8.7%
Fall Rye	55.0	40.0	42.5	..	..	..	39.1	..	..
Flaxseed	65.0	63.0	31.7	..	..	..	26.1	..	..
Canola	6,150.0	6,025.0	39.0	6,450.0	6,300.0	34.9	33.4	-10.5%	4.6%
Dry Peas	745.0	735.0	40.3	960.0	930.0	39.3	35.0	-2.5%	12.2%
Total	18,100.0	17,170.0	---	18,405.0	17,470.0	---	---	---	---

Figure 1: Production of Selected Principal Field Crops, 2012, Alberta and Canada



2012 Crop Production, Canada

In 2012, production for most principal field crops in Canada could see an increase from last year with the exception of canola and oats. Projections of Canadian production are 18.64 million tonnes for spring wheat, 4.40 million tonnes for durum, 2.94 million tonnes for oats, 8.59 million tonnes for barley, 13.36 million tonnes for canola, and 2.74 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding. 10-year average refers to 2002 to 2011.

October 12, 2012

Source: Statistics Canada p - Preliminary r - Revised --- Not applicable bu - Bushels Avg - Average Yld - Yield .. Not available
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