

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: CR16-2

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Section 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 2016 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta

On December 6, 2016, Statistics Canada released the November estimates of crop production for 2016.

Key Messages

- Although the 2016 crop season in Alberta started with a dry spring, farms across the province received appropriate precipitation at the right time to produce above average yields. However, persistent wet and cold weather conditions from mid-August and excessive soil moisture delayed the harvest season which was one of the longest on record.
- In 2016, the production of selected field crops (including forages) totalled 34.0 million tonnes, up 24.4 per cent from a year ago. Excluding forages, production totalled 24.6 million tonnes, up 16.0 per cent from last year. In either case, this is the highest production after 2013.
- Spring wheat production increased by 10.3 per cent, from 7.2 million tonnes to 8.0 million tonnes, due to higher yields, despite a decline in harvested area.
- Barley production increased to 4.4 million tonnes, from 4.3 million tonnes in 2015, as yields increased 13.3 per cent, compensating the 9.4 per cent decline in harvested area.
- Canola production dropped 1.2 per cent to 5.8 million tonnes from 5.9 million tonnes in 2015, which is still 21.0 per cent higher than the 10-year average.
- Forage production increased 53.8 per cent from last year to 9.4 million tonnes. This was attributed to higher production of both fodder corn and tame hay.

December 9, 2016

(Please turn over)

Total 2016 Crop Production Increased in Alberta

On December 6, 2016, Statistics Canada released its final 2016 estimates of crop production for Canada and provinces. Production of selected field crops (including forages) in Alberta totalled 34.0 million tonnes, up 24.4 per cent from a year ago. Excluding forages, production totalled 24.6 million tonnes, up 16.0 per cent from 2015 (see Table 1). In either case, this is the highest production on record after 2013. Although producers were challenged with a wet and cold harvest season, crop production in 2016 was 21.1 per cent higher than the 10-year average (2006-2015), while forage production was 10.9 per cent above the 10-year average, resulting in an 18.1 per cent increase in total production of crop and forage from the 10-year average. Provincial average yields were higher than in 2015 and the 10-year averages (see Table 2). However, the wet cold weather and a long harvest season impacted crop quality which was generally below average. While total seeded areas of principal field crops increased 0.6 per cent, harvested areas declined 1.5 per cent.

Table 1: Alberta Crop Production ('000 tonnes)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015r	2016p	10-year Average	% change	
								16 vs 15	16 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	261.3	206.8	261.3	272.2	225.9	318.4	248.8	40.9%	28.0%
Spring Wheat	7,957.9	7,429.9	10,169.6	8,369.1	7,247.6	7,995.9	7,405.1	10.3%	8.0%
Durum Wheat	620.5	732.1	870.9	707.6	816.5	1,583.9	756.8	94.0%	109.3%
All Wheat	8,839.6	8,368.8	11,301.8	9,348.9	8,290.0	9,898.2	8,410.7	19.4%	17.7%
Oats	738.7	518.2	601.5	542.9	393.3	624.6	562.6	58.8%	11.0%
Barley	4,668.0	4,463.3	5,545.4	4,131.3	4,289.2	4,398.0	4,643.3	2.5%	-5.3%
Fall Rye	54.0	34.3	36.3	30.9	33.0	49.5	42.9	50.0%	15.5%
Mixed Grains	79.6	10.5	13.3	12.9	12.2	24.9	29.7	104.1%	-16.0%
Flaxseed	54.7	41.9	73.7	87.6	83.8	54.6	48.6	-34.8%	12.3%
Canola	5,347.9	5,097.2	6,168.9	5,796.9	5,851.3	5,783.3	4,778.0	-1.2%	21.0%
Corn for Grain	35.6	35.6	66.0	91.4	87.6	63.5	42.8	-27.5%	48.4%
Dry Beans	44.0	44.7	48.1	66.0	47.9	54.7	48.7	14.2%	12.2%
Fababeans	0.0	0.0	0.0	107.5	81.6	54.4	19.4	-33.3%	180.6%
Dry Peas	805.6	1,208.4	1,321.3	1,475.1	1,314.5	2,271.2	958.6	72.8%	136.9%
Lentils	76.0	68.1	110.3	84.4	176.4	506.2	63.1	187.0%	702.7%
Mustard Seed	26.8	35.9	37.2	59.4	31.9	71.6	37.9	124.5%	89.0%
Triticale	21.6	19.1	16.9	17.5	14.5	19.6	20.2	35.2%	-3.2%
Sugar Beets	703.1	598.7	598.7	580.6	503.5	725.7	612.8	44.1%	18.4%
All Crops	21,495.2	20,544.7	25,939.4	22,433.3	21,210.7	24,600.0	20,319.2	16.0%	21.1%
Tame Hay	7,937.9	7,711.1	7,588.6	7,257.5	4,971.4	7,819.9	7,466.6	57.3%	4.7%
Fodder Corn	1,388.0	784.7	1,179.3	943.5	1,115.8	1,542.2	972.5	38.2%	58.6%
All Forages	9,325.9	8,495.8	8,767.9	8,201.0	6,087.2	9,362.1	8,439.1	53.8%	10.9%
Total	30,821.1	29,040.5	34,707.3	30,634.3	27,297.9	33,962.1	28,758.2	24.4%	18.1%

Production by Crop Type, Alberta

Total production of **spring wheat** in 2016, increased 10.3 per cent, to 8.0 million tonnes. The higher production stemmed from an increase in average yield (up 26.1 per cent) compensating for the decline in harvested area (down 12.1 per cent). The provincial average yield was 59.5 bushels per acre, with harvested area at 5.0 million acres. **Durum wheat** production increased 94.0 per cent, to a record of 1.6 million tonnes, due to a 42.9 per cent increase in harvested area to 1.2 million acres. The average yield was up 35.7 per cent from last year, to 50.6 bushels per acre. Overall, production of **all wheat** was 9.9 million tonnes, an increase of 19.4 per cent from 2015.

Total **barley** production increased 2.5 per cent from last year to 4.4 million tonnes. The average yield improved 13.3 per cent to 77.7 bushels per acre, while harvested area was down 9.4 per cent to 2.6 million acres.

Total **canola** production dropped 1.2 per cent to 5.8 million tonnes. This was attributed to a lower harvested area of 5.5 million acres (down 11.0 per cent from 2015), despite average yield increasing 11.3 per cent, to 46.4 bushel per acre, a new high record.

In 2016, **dry peas** production increased significantly by 72.8 per cent to a record 2.3 million tonnes, due to a higher yield of 46.1 bushel per acre (up 35.6 per cent from 2015) and harvested area (up 27.5 per cent).

Total **oats** production increased by 58.8 per cent, to 624,600 tonnes, due to an increase in both yield and harvested area. Harvested area was up 25.0 per cent to 425,000 acres, while average yield rose 27.1 per cent to 95.3 bushels per acre.

Lentils production reached a new high of 506,200 tonnes (up 187.0 per cent from 2015), as a result of a 97.9 per cent increase in harvested area and a 44.9 per cent increase in the average yield, to 1,993 pounds per acre.

In 2016, **Forage** production increased 53.8 per cent to 9.4 million tonnes and was attributed to higher production of both fodder corn and tame hay. **Fodder corn** production increased 38.2 per cent to 1.5 million tonnes, while **tame hay** production increased 57.3 per cent to 7.8 million tonnes.

2016 Crop Production, Canada

Total 2016 Canadian production was 20.5 million tonnes for spring wheat, 7.8 million tonnes for durum, 8.8 million tonnes for barley, 3.1 million tonnes for oats, 18.4 million tonnes for canola, and 4.8 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield

Crops	2015r Seeded	2016p Seeded	2015r Harvested	2016p Harvested	2015r Yield	2016p Yield	10-year Avg Yld	Yield % change		
								16 vs 15	16 vs Avg	
	('000 acres)				(bushel/acre)					
Winter Wheat	150.0	185.0	150.0	185.0	55.3	63.2	53.8	14.3%	17.6%	
Spring Wheat	5,860.0	5,335.0	5,640.0	4,955.0	47.2	59.5	47.3	26.1%	25.7%	
Durum Wheat	820.0	1,170.0	805.0	1,150.0	37.3	50.6	43.2	35.7%	17.2%	
All Wheat	6,850.0	6,705.0	6,595.0	6,290.0	46.2	58.0	47.1	25.5%	23.3%	
Oats	670.0	720.0	340.0	425.0	75.0	95.3	75.6	27.1%	26.0%	
Barley	3,350.0	3,200.0	2,870.0	2,600.0	68.6	77.7	64.6	13.3%	20.3%	
Fall Rye	45.0	65.0	30.0	42.0	43.3	46.4	42.3	7.2%	9.7%	
Mixed Grains	80.0	105.0	10.0	20.0	60.0	61.0	60.7	1.7%	0.6%	
Flaxseed	115.0	70.0	115.0	64.0	28.7	33.6	29.1	17.1%	15.3%	
Canola	6,220.0	5,950.0	6,180.0	5,500.0	41.7	46.4	36.9	11.3%	25.8%	
Corn for Grain	40.0	25.0	30.0	18.0	115.0	138.9	101.7	20.8%	36.6%	
Dry Beans	40.0	45.0	38.0	45.0	46.3	44.7	38.9	-3.6%	15.0%	
Fababeans	80.0	45.0	77.0	41.0	39.0	48.8	45.2	25.2%	8.1%	
Dry Peas	1,445.0	1,845.0	1,420.0	1,810.0	34.0	46.1	38.8	35.6%	18.8%	
Lentils	285.0	575.0	283.0	560.0	22.9	33.2	29.6	44.9%	12.2%	
Mustard Seed	90.0	135.0	88.0	132.0	16.0	23.9	17.8	49.5%	34.1%	
Triticale	35.0	30.0	10.0	13.0	57.0	59.2	48.8	3.9%	21.3%	
					(tons/acre)					
Sugar Beets	18.0	25.0	18.0	25.0	30.8	32.0	26.5	3.9%	20.8%	
Tame Hay	4,875.0	4,825.0	4,225.0	4,395.0	1.3	2.0	1.7	53.8%	19.8%	
Fodder Corn	90.0	110.0	65.0	85.0	18.9	20.0	17.7	5.8%	12.8%	
Total	24,328.0	24,475.0	22,394.0	22,065.0	---	---	---	---	---	

Figure 1: Production of Selected Principal Field Crops, 2016, Alberta and Canada

