

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: CR15-2

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 2015 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta

On October 2, 2015, Statistics Canada released the September, 2015 estimates of crop production for Canada and provinces.

### 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 has progressed across the province, it appears that yields could be higher than what was expected earlier in the summer.
- In 2015, total production of selected principal field crops in Alberta is anticipated at 19.4 million tonnes, down 16.9 per cent from a year ago, and 7.9 per cent below the 10-year average (2005-2014). The lower production stems mainly from reduced yields for major crops.
- Spring wheat production in Alberta is expected to decrease by 20.3 per cent to 6.7 million tonnes, due to anticipated lower yields and fewer harvested area.
- Barley production is estimated at 3.9 million tonnes, down 6.3 per cent, as yields are expected to decrease by 10.3 per cent.
- Canola production in the province is estimated to go down 24.9 per cent to 4.4 million tonnes, which is 4.5 per cent below the 10-year average.
- Dry peas production is expected to decrease 11.1 per cent to 1.3 million tonnes, but still 47.6 per cent above the 10-year average. The production decline is driven by lower yields.

Note: This is the second of three crop production estimates done by Statistics Canada. The first was released on August 21, 2015 (July estimates). The final estimate is scheduled for release on December 4, 2015 (November estimates).

**October 9, 2015**

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**Total Alberta Crop Production Expected to Decrease in 2015**

On October 2, 2015, Statistics Canada released the September, 2015 estimates of crop production for Canada and provinces. The September estimates are preliminary and are the second of three production estimates done by Statistics Canada. The hot and dry weather during spring and summer had an adverse impact on crop growth in 2015. However, the September estimates show higher yields than what was estimated earlier in the summer. Total 2015 production of principal field crops in Alberta could reach 19.4 million tonnes, down 16.9 per cent from last year, and 7.9 per cent below the 10-year average (see Table 1). Provincial average yields are still estimated to be below both 2014 and the 10-year average for most major crops (see Table 2). Just to caution, these production estimates reflect yield potentials at the time the survey was conducted (September 3 to 13, 2015), and therefore could change from the third and final production estimates expected to be released on December 4, 2015. Compared with 2014, total seeded and harvested area of principal field crops in the province are estimated to decline 1.1 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively.

Crops	2010	2011	2012	2013r	2014r	2015p	10-year Average	% change	
								15 vs 14	15 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	264.0	261.3	206.8	261.3	272.2	217.7	245.2	-20.0%	-11.2%
Spring Wheat	7,515.5	7,957.8	7,429.9	10,169.6	8,369.1	6,670.5	7,396.4	-20.3%	-9.8%
Durum Wheat	421.8	620.5	732.1	870.9	707.6	797.4	777.2	12.7%	2.6%
<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>7,685.6</b>	<b>8,418.8</b>	<b>-17.8%</b>	<b>-8.7%</b>
Oats	647.7	738.7	518.2	601.5	542.9	342.4	606.2	-36.9%	-43.5%
Barley	4,528.7	4,668.0	4,463.3	5,545.4	4,131.3	3,869.0	4,737.6	-6.3%	-18.3%
Fall Rye	50.8	54.0	34.3	36.3	30.9	38.1	47.5	23.3%	-19.8%
Flaxseed	30.5	54.7	41.9	73.7	87.6	78.7	45.6	-10.2%	72.6%
Canola	4,740.0	5,347.9	5,097.2	6,168.9	5,796.9	4,354.5	4,558.0	-24.9%	-4.5%
Corn for Grain	-	35.6	35.6	66.0	91.4	82.6	39.3	-9.6%	110.2%
Dry Beans	31.5	44.0	44.7	48.1	66.0	50.3	49.2	-23.8%	2.2%
Fababeans	-	-	-	-	107.5	97.5	39.1	-9.3%	149.4%
Dry Peas	982.5	805.6	1,208.4	1,321.3	1,475.1	1,311.8	888.9	-11.1%	47.6%
Lentils	82.0	76.0	68.1	110.3	84.4	113.6	58.5	34.6%	94.1%
Mustard Seed	47.7	26.8	35.9	37.2	59.4	28.1	37.8	-52.7%	-25.7%
Mixed Grains	24.5	79.6	10.5	13.3	12.9	14.3	32.5	10.9%	-56.0%
Corn, Fodder	680.4	1,388.0	784.7	1,179.3	943.5	839.1	906.3	-11.1%	-7.4%
Sugar Beets	508.0	703.1	598.7	598.7	580.6	517.1	623.2	-10.9%	-17.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,555.6</b>	<b>22,861.6</b>	<b>21,310.3</b>	<b>27,101.8</b>	<b>23,359.3</b>	<b>19,422.7</b>	<b>21,088.5</b>	<b>-16.9%</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>

**Production by Crop Type, Alberta**

**Spring wheat production** in 2015, is estimated to be down by 20.3 per cent, to 6.7 million tonnes, due to both anticipated lower yields and fewer harvested acres (down 17.0 per cent and 4.0 per cent, respectively). The provincial average yield is estimated at 43.0 bushels per acre, with harvested area at 5.7 million acres. Production of **durum wheat** is estimated to increase 12.7 per cent, to 797,400 tonnes. The higher production is due to harvested area increasing 46.3 per cent to 790,000 acres, although the average yield is down 22.9 per cent from last year, to 37.1 bushels per acre. Overall, production of **all wheat** is expected to decrease 17.8 per cent to 7.7 million tonnes. The provincial average yield for all wheat is estimated at 42.5 bushel per acre, down 10.0 per cent from the 10-year average.

Total **barley** production is expected to decline to 3.9 million tonnes, (down 6.3 per cent from last year). The provincial average yield is expected to decrease 10.3 per cent to 60.4 bushels per acre, while harvested area increased to 2.9 million acres (up 4.3 per cent from last year).

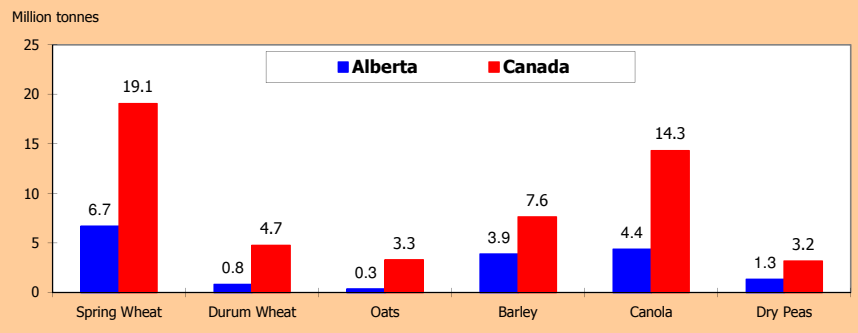
Total **canola** production is estimated to fall 24.9 per cent to 4.4 million tonnes. This is attributed to a lower yield of 32.0 bushels per acre (down 15.8 per cent from last year), and harvested area decreasing by 10.8 per cent from 2014, to 6.0 million acres.

**Dry peas** production is expected to decrease 11.1 per cent to 1.3 million tonnes, due to lower yields which could fall 19.5 per cent to 33.8 bushels per acre. Harvested area is expected to increase by 10.5 per cent to 1.4 million acres.

Total **oats** production is expected to decline by 36.9 per cent, to 342,400 tonnes, the result of a drop in both yield and harvested area. Harvested area is anticipated to decline 23.1 per cent to 350,000 acres and yield down 18.1 per cent to 63.4 bushels per acre.

Crops	2014r Seeded	2015p Seeded	2014r Harvested	2015p Harvested	2014r Yield	2015p Yield	10-year Avg Yld	Yield % change	
								15 vs 14	15 vs Avg
	('000 acres)				(bushel/acre)				
Winter Wheat	195.0	170.0	170.0	150.0	58.8	53.3	53.8	-9.4%	-1.0%
Spring Wheat	6,045.0	5,880.0	5,935.0	5,700.0	51.8	43.0	47.4	-17.0%	-9.3%
Durum Wheat	550.0	800.0	540.0	790.0	48.1	37.1	43.8	-22.9%	-15.4%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>6,790.0</b>	<b>6,850.0</b>	<b>6,645.0</b>	<b>6,640.0</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>-17.8%</b>	<b>-10.0%</b>
Oats	670.0	635.0	455.0	350.0	77.4	63.4	76.1	-18.1%	-16.7%
Barley	3,200.0	3,400.0	2,820.0	2,940.0	67.3	60.4	64.4	-10.3%	-6.2%
Fall Rye	30.0	35.0	30.0	35.0	40.5	42.9	42.4	5.9%	1.1%
Flaxseed	115.0	115.0	115.0	113.0	30.0	27.4	29.1	-8.7%	-5.7%
Canola	6,750.0	6,100.0	6,725.0	6,000.0	38.0	32.0	36.5	-15.8%	-12.3%
Dry Beans	55.0	45.0	53.0	43.0	45.8	43.0	37.8	-6.2%	13.9%
Fababeans	75.00	100.0	75.00	95.0	52.7	37.7	47.5	-28.5%	-20.6%
Dry Peas	1,300.0	1,445.0	1,290.0	1,425.0	42.0	33.8	39.7	-19.5%	-14.8%
Mixed Grains	100.0	100.0	10.0	10.0	63.0	70.0	60.4	11.1%	16.0%
Lentils	110.0	220.0	108.0	215.0	28.7	19.4	26.3	-32.4%	-26.1%
Mustard Seed	135.0	80.0	133.0	77.0	19.7	16.1	18.1	-18.4%	-11.0%
	(tons/acre)								
Corn, Fodder	80.0	80.0	60.0	50.0	17.3	18.5	17.3	6.9%	7.1%
Sugar Beets	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	32.0	28.5	25.4	-10.9%	12.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,430.0</b>	<b>19,225.0</b>	<b>18,539.0</b>	<b>18,013.0</b>	---	---	---	---	---

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



**2015 Crop Production, Canada**

The September estimates show that in 2015, production of most principal field crops were lower than 2014. Estimates of Canadian production was 19.1 million tonnes for spring wheat, 4.7 million tonnes for durum, 7.6 million tonnes for barley, 3.3 million tonnes for oats, 14.3 million tonnes for canola, and 3.2 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).