

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: CR12-1

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)

**Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Economics and Competitiveness Division, Statistics and Data Development Branch.**



## July 2012 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta

On August 22, 2012, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "July 2012 Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops".

### Key Messages

- Based on the report, total production of principal field crops in Alberta in 2012 is projected at 21.1 million tonnes, up 3.1 per cent from a year ago, and 25.1 per cent above the 10-year average (2002-2011). The higher production stems from an overall increase in seeded and harvested areas, along with relatively strong yields for crops.
- Alberta producers expect spring wheat production to be down 3.9 per cent, to 7.7 million tonnes. This primarily stems from an anticipated decrease in harvested area.
- Barley production is expected to be up 17.2 per cent, to 5.3 million tonnes, as harvested area is expected to increase by 11.2 per cent. Oat production could fall 18.1 per cent, to 542,900 tonnes, due to a drop in seeded and harvested area.
- Canola production in the province is expected to increase 1.4 per cent, setting a new record for the province at 5.4 million tonnes. Strong prices encouraged producers to seed and harvest more canola acreage, thereby offsetting the reduction in yield.
- Production of dry peas is expected to increase 39.7 per cent to a record 1.1 million tonnes, as a result of increased yields and harvested area.

Note: This is the first of three crop production estimates that will be done by Statistics Canada. The second is scheduled for release on October 4, 2012 (September estimates), followed by the final release (November estimates) on December 5, 2012.

August 29, 2012

(Please turn over)

## Total Alberta Crop Production Expected to Increase in 2012

On August 22, 2012, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "July 2012 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops". The July estimate is preliminary and is the first of three production estimates scheduled by Statistics Canada. Based on the report, total 2012 production of the reported principal field crops in Alberta could reach 21.1 million tonnes, or 3.1 per cent higher than last year, and 25.1 per cent above the 10-year average (see Table 1). Crop growing conditions and soil moisture conditions in the vast majority of the province this year have been good to excellent. Provincial average yields are projected to be above their 10-year averages (see Table 2). Just to caution, these production estimates reflect yield potentials at the time the survey was conducted (July 25 to August 1, 2012) and could change in subsequent reports. Total seeded area and total harvested area of principal field crops in the province is estimated to be higher than in 2011.

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

Crops	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011r	2012p	10-year Average	% change	
								12 vs 11	12 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	175.5	386.5	266.7	264.0	261.3	176.9	208.2	-32.3%	-15.0%
Spring Wheat	5,230.6	7,272.0	6,180.6	7,484.3	8,027.5	7,713.0	6,230.0	-3.9%	23.8%
Durum Wheat	670.0	1,077.7	993.4	421.8	620.5	707.6	834.9	14.0%	-15.2%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>6,076.1</b>	<b>8,736.2</b>	<b>7,440.7</b>	<b>8,170.1</b>	<b>8,909.3</b>	<b>8,597.5</b>	<b>7,273.1</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Oats	627.4	541.3	308.4	647.7	663.2	542.9	634.9	-18.1%	-14.5%
Barley	5,114.3	5,447.5	3,840.7	4,528.7	4,550.4	5,334.2	4,671.5	17.2%	14.2%
Fall Rye	36.8	76.2	38.1	50.8	43.2	34.2	54.0	-20.8%	-36.7%
Flaxseed	16.3	33.0	28.4	30.5	50.8	40.6	32.4	-20.1%	25.3%
Canola	3,401.9	4,322.7	3,628.7	4,740.0	5,329.7	5,406.8	3,487.2	1.4%	55.0%
Mixed Grains	24.1	30.6	23.0	24.5	48.0	24.5	35.9	-49.0%	-31.8%
Dry Peas	527.5	731.4	666.7	982.5	764.8	1,068.6	619.8	39.7%	72.4%
Lentils	0.0	0.0	30.1	106.8	76.9	-	24.8	-	-
Mustard Seed	28.1	37.1	47.7	52.5	21.6	51.8	35.3	139.8%	46.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,852.5</b>	<b>19,956.0</b>	<b>16,052.5</b>	<b>19,334.1</b>	<b>20,457.9</b>	<b>21,101.1</b>	<b>16,868.9</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>

## Production by Crop Type, Alberta

Total production of spring wheat could decrease 3.9 per cent, to 7.7 million tonnes. The lower production is anticipated from reduced seeded and harvested areas and marginally lower yield. The provincial average yield is projected at 49.5 bushels per acre, down 0.2 per cent compared to a year ago. For durum wheat, production could jump 14.0 per cent, to 707,600 tonnes. The increase is the result of higher seeded and harvested areas, expected to be up 11.1 per cent and 11.3 per cent, respectively. The provincial average yield is also projected to increase from a year ago at 44.1 bushels per acre, up 2.6 per cent. Winter wheat production which has been declining since 2009 on a "year-over-year" basis, is estimated at 176,900 tonnes, and 15.0 per cent below the 10-year average. The decline is expected due to a lower seeded and harvested area. Overall, total production of all wheat could reach 8.6 million tonnes, a decrease of 3.5 per cent over 2011, but still 18.2 per cent above the 10-year average.

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

Crops	2011r	2011r	2011r	2012p	2012p	2012p	10-year	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Harvested	Yield	Seeded	Harvested	Yield	Avg Yld	12 vs 11	12 vs Avg
	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)			
Winter Wheat	180.0	180.0	53.3	120.0	120.0	54.2	49.3	1.7%	9.9%
Spring Wheat	6,040.0	5,952.0	49.6	5,800.0	5,720.0	49.5	42.8	-0.2%	15.7%
Durum Wheat	540.0	530.0	43.0	600.0	590.0	44.1	40.1	2.6%	10.0%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>6,760.0</b>	<b>6,662.0</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>6,520.0</b>	<b>6,430.0</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
Oats	800.0	525.0	81.9	650.0	430.0	81.9	70.4	0.0%	16.3%
Barley	3,500.0	3,120.0	67.0	3,800.0	3,470.0	70.6	60.4	5.4%	16.9%
Fall Rye	40.0	40.0	42.5	30.0	30.0	44.8	39.6	5.4%	13.1%
Flaxseed	65.0	63.0	31.7	45.0	45.0	35.6	26.1	12.3%	36.3%
Canola	6,150.0	6,025.0	39.0	6,450.0	6,390.0	37.3	33.4	-4.4%	11.7%
Mixed Grains	120.0	30.0	78.3	100.0	20.0	60.0	58.6	-23.4%	2.4%
Dry Peas	745.0	725.0	38.8	925.0	920.0	42.7	34.9	10.1%	22.3%
Lentils	110.0	107.0	26.4	-	-	-	15.8	-	-
Mustard Seed	50.0	50.0	19.1	105.0	105.0	21.8	16.9	13.8%	29.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,340.0</b>	<b>17,347.0</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>18,625.0</b>	<b>17,840.0</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>

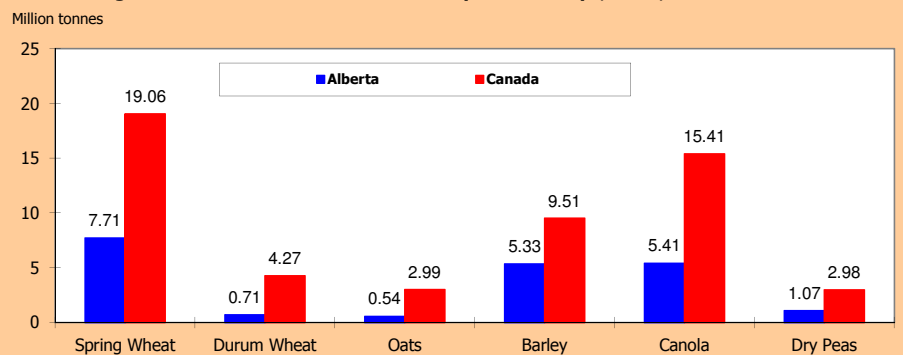
Total barley production is anticipated to be up 17.2 per cent, to 5.3 million tonnes, as seeded and harvested area is expected to increase by 8.6 per cent and 11.2 per cent, respectively. The provincial average yield is projected at 70.6 bushels per acre, or 5.4 per cent higher than in 2011, and 16.9 per cent above the 10-year average.

Total oat production could increase to be 542,900 tonnes, down 18.1 per cent from 2011, due to a reduction in seeded and harvested area. The provincial average yield is projected to remain flat at 81.9 bushels per acre, but still 16.3 per cent above the 10-year average.

Total canola production is expected to increase 1.4 per cent from 2011, to 5.4 million tonnes, the third consecutive record high on a "year-over-year" basis. This stems from increased seeded and harvested areas. The seeded and harvested acreages in 2012 are estimated at 6.5 million acres and 6.4 million acres, respectively (both record highs). Regarding yield, the provincial average is projected at 37.3 bushels per acre, 4.4 per cent below last year, but still 11.7 per cent above the 10-year average.

In 2012, total production of dry peas is expected to jump 39.7 per cent to a record high 1.1 million tonnes. This is due to higher seeded and harvested areas and yield. The provincial average yield is projected at 42.7 bushels per acre, or 10.1 per cent higher than in 2011, while seeded and harvested areas could increase by 24.2 per cent and 26.9 per cent, respectively.

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



## 2012 Crop Production, Canada

The July estimates suggest that in 2012, production for most principal field crops in Canada could see an increase from last year. Projections of Canadian production are at 19.06 million tonnes for spring wheat, 4.27 million tonnes for durum, 2.99 million tonnes for oats, 9.51 million tonnes for barley, 15.41 million tonnes for canola, and 2.98 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.

August 29, 2012

Source: Statistics Canada p - Preliminary r - Revised --- Not applicable bu - Bushels Avg - Average Yld - Yield - Not available  
Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Economics and Competitiveness Division, Statistics and Data Development Branch  
email: lukas.matejovsky@gov.ab.ca Telephone: 780-422-2887