

# November 2018 Estimates Crop Production Alberta Highlights

Agri-Food Statistics Update: Issue CR18-2

## Release Information

On December 6, 2018, Statistics Canada released their November estimates of crop production for 2018. These estimates were derived from a Statistics Canada survey of 7,230 Alberta producers, conducted in October and November. These are the final estimates of three reports for the 2018 crop season.

Detailed data is available on the Statistics Canada website, table number 32-10-0359-01:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/type/data>

## Highlights

### November Estimates of Production for Principal Field Crops in 2018

- The 2018 crop season was challenging for Alberta producers for a variety of reasons, including a late spring, dry conditions in summer, low temperatures since the end of August, thick smoke from the BC wildfires and a wet delayed harvest season. This resulted in lower yield and quality, compared to recent years.
- In 2018, the production of selected field crops and forages in Alberta totaled 31.3 million tonnes, down 6.6 per cent from 2017, but still 3.3 per cent above the 10-year average (2008-2017).
- Excluding forages, selected field crops production was 23.6 million tonnes, 4.7 per cent lower than 2017, but still 8 per cent higher than the 10-year average.
- All wheat production remained almost unchanged, with a 0.3 per cent increase from

2017 to 10 million tonnes, which is 10.4 per cent above the 10-year average. The marginal increase was due to a higher harvested area, despite declining yield.

- Barley production increased 2.3 per cent to four million tonnes, but was 11.6 per cent below the 10-year average. This was driven by an increase in harvested area, despite reduced yield.
- Canola production fell 14 per cent to 5.9 million tonnes, as both yield and harvested area were down. However, production was still 8.8 per cent higher than the 10-year average.
- Production for all pulses declined, with the exception of dry beans, which was up 18.4 per cent from a year ago. For lentils, dry peas and fababeans, production fell by 24.5, 19.2 and 4.4 per cent, respectively, as both harvested areas and yields were down.

### For more information:

Please visit the Agriculture and Forestry website:

<https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca>

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

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Alberta

# Total 2018 Crop Production Decreased in Alberta

Production of selected field crops (including forages) in Alberta was at 31.3 million tonnes, down 6.6 per cent from a year ago, but still 3.3 per cent higher than the 10-year (2008-2017) average (See Table 1). Excluding forages, selected field crops production

was at 23.6 million tonnes, a decrease of 4.7 per cent from a year ago, but still eight per cent higher than the 10-year average. The decline in production was mostly attributed to lower yields in 2018 (see Table 2). Total seeded area of principal field crops increased 1.4 per cent from 2017, while total harvested area remained almost unchanged, due to the lower harvested area in 2018 as a result of the challenging harvest season.

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

Crops	2013r	2014r	2015	2016r	2017	2018p	10-year Average	% change	
								18 vs 17	18 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	288.5	296.1	225.9	318.4	176.9	100.4	269.1	-43.2%	-62.7%
Spring Wheat	10,169.6	8,369.1	7,247.6	8,204.4	8,720.0	8,771.6	7,906.7	0.6%	10.9%
Durum Wheat	870.9	707.6	816.5	1,583.9	1,083.2	1,134.1	890.8	4.7%	27.3%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>11,329.0</b>	<b>9,372.8</b>	<b>8,290.0</b>	<b>10,106.7</b>	<b>9,980.1</b>	<b>10,006.0</b>	<b>9,066.5</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
Oats	601.5	542.9	393.3	624.6	609.2	700.1	552.6	14.9%	26.7%
Barley	5,545.4	4,131.3	4,289.2	4,398.0	3,906.0	3,996.3	4,521.8	2.3%	-11.6%
Fall Rye	36.3	30.9	33.0	59.7	33.5	30.0	42.8	-10.4%	-29.9%
Mixed Grains	13.3	12.9	12.2	30.6	33.0	-	27.0	-	-
Flaxseed	73.7	98.4	83.8	59.8	62.2	60.5	56.9	-2.7%	6.3%
Canola	6,168.9	5,796.9	5,851.3	6,157.5	6,826.6	5,870.6	5,393.8	-14.0%	8.8%
Corn for Grain	66.0	91.4	87.6	98.0	152.9	118.3	71.8	-22.6%	64.8%
Dry Beans	48.1	66.0	47.9	61.6	61.5	72.8	49.5	18.4%	47.0%
Fababeans	-	107.5	81.6	54.4	45.4	43.4	72.2	-4.4%	-39.9%
Dry Peas	1,321.3	1,475.1	1,314.5	2,271.2	1,991.5	1,608.4	1,276.8	-19.2%	26.0%
Lentils	110.3	84.4	176.4	451.8	264.4	199.6	149.6	-24.5%	33.4%
Mustard Seed	37.2	59.4	31.9	73.3	27.1	36.7	42.4	35.4%	-13.5%
Triticale	16.9	17.5	14.5	30.2	23.2	32.0	21.3	37.9%	50.1%
Sugar Beets	598.7	580.6	503.5	811.9	771.1	854.5	607.8	10.8%	40.6%
<b>All Crops</b>	<b>25,966.6</b>	<b>22,468.0</b>	<b>21,210.7</b>	<b>25,289.3</b>	<b>24,787.7</b>	<b>23,629.2</b>	<b>21,887.4</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
Tame Hay	7,588.6	6,976.3	4,640.2	7,239.3	7,175.8	6,035.7	7,125.5	-15.9%	-15.3%
Fodder Corn	1,551.3	1,251.9	1,388.0	1,814.4	1,564.9	1,660.4	1,245.1	6.1%	33.4%
<b>All Forages</b>	<b>9,139.9</b>	<b>8,228.2</b>	<b>6,028.2</b>	<b>9,053.7</b>	<b>8,740.7</b>	<b>7,696.1</b>	<b>8,370.6</b>	<b>-12.0%</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,106.5</b>	<b>30,696.2</b>	<b>27,238.9</b>	<b>34,343.0</b>	<b>33,528.4</b>	<b>31,325.3</b>	<b>30,323.5</b>	<b>-6.6%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>

r - Revised p - Preliminary - Not available 10-year average refers to 2008-2017

Source: Statistics Canada Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Statistics and Data Development Section

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

Crops	2017	2018p	2017	2018p	2017	2018p	10-year Avg Yld	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Seeded	Harvested	Harvested	Yield	Yield		18 vs 17	18 vs Avg
	('000 acres)		('000 acres)		(bu/acre)				
Winter Wheat	105.0	67.9	105.0	65.0	61.9	56.8	56.4	-8.2%	0.7%
Spring Wheat	5,860.0	6,265.0	5,775.0	6,156.1	55.5	52.4	50.3	-5.6%	4.1%
<b>Durum Wheat</b>	<b>1,090.0</b>	<b>1,184.8</b>	<b>1,085.0</b>	<b>1,170.5</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>	<b>-18.8%</b>
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>7,080.0</b>	<b>7,544.8</b>	<b>6,965.0</b>	<b>7,391.6</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>-5.5%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Oats	690.0	795.1	425.0	512.0	92.9	88.7	80.6	-4.5%	10.0%
Barley	2,850.0	3,114.1	2,500.0	2,746.9	71.8	66.8	67.6	-7.0%	-1.2%
Fall Rye	45.0	39.6	25.0	22.4	52.8	52.8	44.4	0.0%	18.9%
Mixed Grains	135.0	179.0	25.0	-	64.6	-	59.7	-	-
Flaxseed	85.0	91.6	85.0	91.6	28.8	26.0	30.2	-9.7%	-13.9%
Canola	6,930.0	6,810.0	6,890.0	6,679.2	43.7	38.8	39.2	-11.2%	-1.1%
Corn for Grain	60.0	35.0	45.0	32.2	133.8	144.6	110.7	8.1%	30.6%
Dry Beans	50.0	62.5	50.0	60.8	45.2	44.0	39.9	-2.6%	10.2%
Fababeans	35.0	34.7	34.0	33.3	49.0	48.0	47.4	-2.0%	1.3%
Dry Peas	1,800.0	1,511.4	1,790.0	1,479.9	40.9	39.9	40.2	-2.4%	-0.7%
Lentils	485.0	420.2	483.0	419.7	20.1	17.5	29.3	-13.2%	-40.3%
Mustard Seed	95.0	122.1	93.0	118.1	12.8	13.7	18.3	6.9%	-24.9%
Triticale	35.0	36.7	15.0	22.4	60.8	56.3	53.0	-7.4%	6.1%
					(tons/acre)				
Sugar Beets	26.0	28.6	26.0	27.5	32.7	34.3	27.9	4.7%	22.8%
Tame Hay	4,460.0	4,325.5	4,160.0	4,066.0	1.9	1.6	1.7	-13.7%	-4.7%
Fodder Corn	130.0	201.1	90.0	100.9	19.2	18.1	17.1	-5.5%	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,991.0</b>	<b>25,352.0</b>	<b>23,701.0</b>	<b>23,804.5</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>

p - Preliminary --- Not applicable - Not available 10-year Avg Yld refers to to 2008-2017 average yield

Source: Statistics Canada Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Statistics and Data Development Section

## Production by Crop Type, Alberta

In 2018, total production of **spring wheat** increased 0.6 per cent to 8.8 million tonnes -- the second highest on record. The slightly higher production stemmed from an increase in harvested area (up 6.6 per cent) compensating for a decline in yield (down 5.6 per cent). The provincial average yield was estimated at 52.4 bushels per acre, with a harvested area of 6.2 million acres.

For **durum wheat**, production increased 4.7 per cent to 1.1 million tonnes. The gain was due to a 7.9 per cent increase in harvested area to 1.2 million acres, more than offsetting the three per cent decline in average yield to 35.6 bushels per acre.

The production of **winter wheat** was down 43.2 per cent to 100,400 tonnes. This was a result of a 38.1 per cent decline in harvested area to 65,000 acres and average yield falling by 8.2 per cent to 56.8 bushels per acre.

Overall, **all wheat** production remained almost unchanged, with a 0.3 per cent increase from 2017 to 10 million tonnes, which is 10.4 per cent above the 10-year average. The marginal increase stemmed from a higher harvested area (up 6.1 per cent to 7.4 million acres), despite declining yield (down 5.5 per cent to 49.7 bushels per acre).

Total **barley** production rose 2.3 per cent to four million tonnes, driven by a 9.9 per cent increase in harvested area (to 2.7 million acres), more than offsetting a seven per cent decline in the average yield (to 66.8 bushels per acre).

Total **oats** production was up 14.9 per cent to 700,100 tonnes. This was attributed to a 20.5 per cent increase in harvested area (to 512,000 acres), despite average yield falling 4.5 per cent (to 88.7 bushels per acre).

Total **canola** production was down 14 per cent to 5.9 million tonnes. The lower production stemmed from a decline in both yield (down 11.2 per cent to 38.8 bushels per acre) and harvested area (down 3.1 per cent to 6.7 million acres).

**Dry beans** production increased 18.4 per cent to a record 72,800 tonnes, and was 47 per cent higher than the 10-year average. Driving this gain was a 21.6 per cent increase in harvested area to 60,800 acres, despite average yield falling 2.6 per cent to 44 bushels per acre.

For **lentils**, production fell 24.5 per cent to 199,600 tonnes, but was still 33.4 per cent above the 10-year average. Lower production was attributed to a 13.1 per cent decrease in harvested area to 419,700 acres, coupled with a 13.2 per cent decline in

average yield to 1,048 pounds per acre (17.5 bushels per acre).

**Dry peas** production was down 19.2 per cent to 1.6 million tonnes, but was still 26 per cent above the 10-year average. The decline was the result of a 17.3 per cent drop in harvested area (to 1.5 million acres) and a 2.4 per cent decrease in average yield (to 39.9 bushel per acre).

**Sugar beets** production increased 10.8 per cent to 854,500 tonnes, 40.6 per cent above the 10-year average, setting a new record. The higher production was due to a 5.8 per cent increase in harvested area to 27,500 acres and a 4.7 per cent increase in yield to 34.3 tons or 31 tonnes per acre .

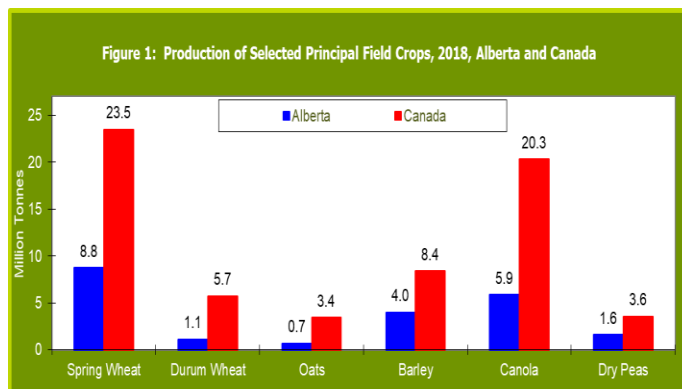
In 2018, **forage** production was down 12 per cent from last year to 7.7 million tonnes and 8.1 per cent below the 10-year average. This was attributed to a lower production of tame hay, despite fodder corn production increasing.

**Tame hay** production fell to six million tonnes, down 15.9 per cent from a year ago and 15.3 per cent lower than the 10-year average. This was due to a 13.7 per cent decrease in yield to 1.6 tons per acre, as well as a 2.3 per cent decline in harvested area to four million acres.

For **fodder corn**, production increased 6.1 per cent to 1.7 million tonnes, 33.4 per cent higher than the 10-year average. Despite yield falling by 5.5 per cent to 18.1 tons per acre, the gain was attributed to a 12.1 per cent increase in harvested area to 100,900 acres.

## 2018 Crop Production, Canada

Total 2018 Canadian production for selected major field crops increased from last year. Estimates of Canadian production was 23.5 million tonnes for spring wheat, 5.7 million tonnes for durum wheat, 3.4 million tonnes for oats, 8.4 million tonnes for barley, 20.3 million tonnes for canola, and 3.6 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).



Source: Statistics Canada

Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Statistics and Data Development Section