



Winter Wheat Seedings

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Planted Acres Down 5 Percent

Winter wheat seeded area for 2015 is expected to total 40.5 million acres, down 5 percent from 2014. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 29.5 million; Soft Red Winter, 7.50 million; and White Winter, 3.48 million.

Winter Wheat Area Seeded – United States: 2013-2015 (Domestic Units)

Crop	Crop year			2015 as a percent of 2014
	2013	2014	2015	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Winter wheat	43,230	42,399	40,452	95

Winter Wheat Area Seeded – United States: 2013-2015 (Metric Units)

Crop	Crop year			2015 as a percent of 2014
	2013	2014	2015	
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	(percent)
Winter wheat	17,494,750	17,158,450	16,370,520	95

Winter wheat: Planted area for harvest in 2015 is estimated at 40.5 million acres, down 5 percent from 2014 and 6 percent below 2013. Seeding began in August and by the end of September was well ahead the 5-year average pace. By the middle of November, seeding was mostly complete.

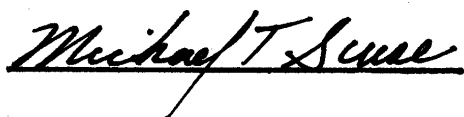
Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is expected to be 29.5 million acres, down 3 percent from 2014. Acreage changes from last year are mixed across the growing region. Growers in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas planted significantly less acreage this year while large acreage increases are estimated in Nebraska and South Dakota. Record low acreage was seeded in Utah. By November 23, Hard Red Winter wheat conditions were varied across States from last year with most acreage rated in fair to good condition.

Soft Red Winter (SRW) wheat seeded area is about 7.50 million acres, down 12 percent from last year. Acreage decreases from last year are expected in most SRW growing States with significant acreage decreases estimated in Illinois and Missouri.

White Winter wheat seeded area totals nearly 3.48 million acres, up 2 percent from 2014. Planted acreage in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, and Washington) are up from last year. Planting got off to a normal start but by the middle of October progress was behind the 5-year average pace in Idaho and Washington. By November 9, seeding was virtually complete in the region.

Durum wheat: Seedings in Arizona and California for 2015 harvest are estimated at 155,000 acres, up 44 percent from 2014 and 7 percent above 2013. Water allocation for the crop in the Imperial Valley was greatly reduced over the past year. Nonetheless, no major problems in the development of the crop have been reported. Planting has progressed well for both the San Joaquin Valley and Imperial Valley.

This report was approved on January 12, 2015.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Michael T. Scuse



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
James M. Harris

Winter Wheat Area Seeded – States and United States: 2013-2015

State	Crop year			2015 as a percent of 2014
	2013	2014	2015	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama	310	255	195	76
Arizona	12	8	9	113
Arkansas	680	465	390	84
California	620	460	450	98
Colorado	2,300	2,750	2,500	91
Delaware	85	80	75	94
Florida	25	15	20	133
Georgia	430	300	320	107
Idaho	780	780	750	96
Illinois	880	740	550	74
Indiana	460	390	360	92
Iowa	30	26	24	92
Kansas	9,500	9,600	9,400	98
Kentucky	700	630	640	102
Louisiana	265	160	130	81
Maryland	345	340	335	99
Michigan	620	570	500	88
Minnesota	27	42	48	114
Mississippi	400	230	150	65
Missouri	1,080	880	650	74
Montana	2,000	2,500	2,300	92
Nebraska	1,470	1,550	1,700	110
Nevada	23	15	14	93
New Jersey	34	33	30	91
New Mexico	440	380	350	92
New York	125	120	105	88
North Carolina	990	830	770	93
North Dakota	215	870	400	46
Ohio	660	620	540	87
Oklahoma	5,600	5,300	5,100	96
Oregon	790	750	780	104
Pennsylvania	185	185	190	103
South Carolina	280	230	195	85
South Dakota	1,300	1,210	1,480	122
Tennessee	640	530	500	94
Texas	6,300	6,000	5,900	98
Utah	120	120	120	100
Virginia	335	290	300	103
Washington	1,700	1,700	1,800	106
West Virginia	9	10	7	70
Wisconsin	315	295	230	78
Wyoming	150	140	145	104
United States	43,230	42,399	40,452	95

Durum Wheat Area Seeded – States and United States: 2013-2015

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not begun]

State	Crop year			2015 as a percent of 2014
	2013	2014	2015 ¹	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Arizona	75	73	115	158
California	70	35	40	114
Idaho	11	11		
Montana	450	435		
North Dakota	790	840		
South Dakota	4	4		
United States	1,400	1,398		

¹ Indicated 2015 area seeded for all six States and the United States will be published in *Prospective Plantings* released March 2015.

Statistical Methodology

Survey procedures: The estimates in this report are based primarily on surveys conducted the first two weeks of December. The December Agricultural Survey is a probability survey that includes a sample of over 83,000 farm operators selected from a list of producers that ensures all operations in the United States have a chance to be selected. These operators were contacted by mail, internet, telephone, or personal interview to obtain information on crop acreage, yield, and production for the 2014 crop year and winter wheat and Durum wheat seedings for the 2015 crop year.

Estimating procedures: National, Regional, State, and grower reported data were reviewed for reasonableness and consistency with historical estimates. Each State Office submits their analysis of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). Survey data are compiled to the National level and are reviewed at this level independently of each State's review. Estimates were based on survey data and the historical relationship of official estimates to survey data.

Revision policy: These estimates will not be revised; instead, new forecasts will be made throughout the growing season. End-of-season estimates are made after harvest and published in the *Small Grains Annual Summary* report at the end of September.

Reliability: The survey used to make acreage estimates is subject to sampling and non-sampling type errors that are common to all surveys. The survey indications are subject to sampling variability because not all operations with winter wheat are included in the sample. This variability, as measured by the relative standard error at the National level, is approximately 1.8 percent for winter wheat. This means that chances are approximately 95 out of 100 that survey estimates for acres will be within plus or minus 3.6 percent for winter wheat.

Survey indications are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omission, duplication, imputation for missing data, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. These errors cannot be measured directly, but they are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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 Anthony Prillaman – Peanuts, Rice (202) 720-2127

 Travis Thorson – Soybeans, Sunflower, Other Oilseeds (202) 720-7369

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