

Agri-Food Statistics Update



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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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Preliminary Estimates of Principal Field Crops Areas Alberta, 2010

On June 23, 2010, Statistics Canada released a report entitled "Preliminary Estimates of Principal Field Crops Areas, Canada, 2010". The crop area estimates shown for Alberta in the report were generated from a survey of more than 6,000 farms in the province, conducted by Statistics Canada during the period from May 25 to June 3, 2010.

The report shows that in 2010, Alberta producers have seeded more acres to canola and oats, but fewer acres to durum wheat. Areas seeded to spring wheat and barley are virtually unchanged from last year, while dry peas acreage is at a new record high. Summerfallow area is unchanged from last year. It is also worth mentioning, some producers may have seeded more barley and oats than intended earlier, due to the delayed seeding this spring.

The market outlook for agricultural commodities is the primary factor affecting producers' decisions on crop acreage. Other factors include soil moisture conditions in spring, farm input costs, and the need for crop rotation.

It should be cautioned that since the 2010 crop seeded area estimates are preliminary, they are subject to revision. Statistics Canada is expected to release the first production estimates of 2010 field crops on August 20, 2010.

Total Seeded Area of Crops in Alberta Remains Practically Unchanged

On June 23, 2010, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "Preliminary Estimates of Principal Field Crops Areas, Canada, 2010". Based on the report, in 2010, the total seeded area of all principal field crops in Alberta is practically the same as in 2009, although year-over-year changes are evident among crops. More acres have been seeded to canola and oats, but fewer acres to durum wheat, compared to 2009 (see Table 1). The total area seeded to spring wheat and barley are similar to 2009, while dry peas acreage has set a new record. The market outlook for agricultural commodities is the primary factor affecting producers' decisions on crop acreage. Other factors include soil moisture conditions in spring, farm input costs, and the need for crop rotation. Summerfallow area is unchanged at 1.60 million acres.

Table 1: Crop Seeded Area, Alberta ('000 acres)

Crops	2006	2007	2008	2009r	2010p	10-year average	% change	
							10 vs 09	10 vs avg
Winter wheat	128	160	270	260	175	138	-33%	27%
Spring wheat	5,769	4,867	5,700	5,875	5,955	5,538	1%	8%
Durum wheat	571	765	930	930	420	911	-55%	-54%
All wheat	6,468	5,792	6,900	7,065	6,550	6,587	-7%	-1%
Oats	1,269	1,050	850	835	985	1,265	18%	-22%
Barley	4,095	4,850	4,150	3,960	4,000	4,696	1%	-15%
Fall rye	105	70	70	40	45	70	13%	-36%
Flaxseed	60	30	45	50	50	49	0%	2%
Canola	4,500	5,035	5,200	5,000	5,200	4,081	4%	27%
Mixed grains	373	140	130	185	120	247	-35%	-51%
Dry peas	587	610	710	800	960	642	20%	49%
Lentils	0	0	0	45	160	17	256%	847%
Dry beans	62	53	40	55	50	52	-9%	-5%
Mustard seed	63	85	110	120	130	92	8%	41%
Triticale	76	40	35	40	35	74	-13%	-52%
Fodder corn	70	70	70	90	70	52	-22%	35%
Summerfallow	2,240	2,035	1,700	1,600	1,600	2,215	0%	-28%
Total	19,968	19,860	20,010	19,885	19,955	20,139	0%	-1%

Seeded Area by Crop Type, Alberta

With respect to estimates for specific crops, a total of 5.96 million acres has been seeded to spring wheat. This is one per cent higher than in 2009, and eight per cent above the 10-year average. Total durum area is estimated at 420,000 acres, or 55 per cent lower than last year, and 54 per cent below the 10-year average. The marked decline is attributed to low market prices and large global supplies. For winter wheat, total area is estimated at 175,000 acres, down 33 per cent from 2009, but still 27 per cent above the 10-year average. Overall, the total area seeded to wheat is estimated at 6.55 million acres, seven per cent lower than a year ago, and one per cent below the 10-year average.

Due to the delayed seeding caused by excessive moisture in spring this year, some producers may have seeded more barley and oats than intended earlier. Overall, Alberta producers have seeded a total of four million acres of barley, or one per cent higher than in 2009, but 15 per cent below the 10-year average. The total area seeded to oats is estimated at 985,000 acres, 18 per cent higher than in 2009, but 22 per cent below the 10-year average.

Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield

Crops	2010 seeded	2010 hrvt d*	10-year avg yld	2010 prd*	2009 prd	10-year avg prd	Prd % change	
	('000 acres)	(bu/acre)	(bu/acre)	('000 tonnes)	('000 tonnes)	('000 tonnes)	10 vs 09	10 vs avg
Winter wheat	175	170	45.1	209	267	167	-22%	25%
Spring wheat	5,955	5,800	40.6	6,409	6,181	5,832	4%	10%
Durum wheat	420	410	36.5	407	993	865	-59%	-53%
All wheat	6,550	6,380	40.2	7,024	7,441	6,864	-6%	2%
Oats	985	550	67.8	575	308	629	86%	-9%
Barley	4,000	3,550	58.1	4,488	3,841	4,765	17%	-6%
Fall rye	45	43	37.3	41	38	53	7%	-24%
Flaxseed	50	48	24.1	29	28	28	3%	5%
Canola	5,200	5,100	30.8	3,565	3,162	2,818	13%	27%
Mixed grains	120	25	54.7	30	23	40	32%	-24%
Dry peas	960	940	33.9	868	667	558	30%	56%
Lentils	160	150	17.9	73	30	8	143%	825%
Dry beans	50	47	36.2	46	50	48	-7%	-4%
Mustard seed	130	125	14.8	42	48	30	-12%	39%
Triticale	35	10	41.4	11	13	22	-17%	-53%
Fodder corn	70	40	(ton/acre)	605	939	581	-36%	4%
Total	18,355	17,008	---	17,398	16,587	---	---	---

The total area seeded to canola is estimated at 5.20 million acres, up four per cent from 2009. The acreage also matches the previous record set in 2008. The increase in canola acreage is mainly attributed to favorable market prices. The recent increase in domestic crushing capacity should improve the market opportunity for canola.

Alberta producers have planted 960,000 acres of dry peas, a new industry high. This is also 20 per cent higher than in 2009, and 49 per cent above the 10-year average. The increase is partially attributed to its relatively low fertilizer requirement, when compared to other crops. A total of 160,000 acres has been seeded to lentils. This is 256 per cent higher than in 2009, and is attributed to relatively favorable market price, when compared to other crops in 2010.

Figure 1 shows a comparison of seeded area for selected major crops in Alberta and Canada.

2010 Projected Crop Production, Alberta

Shown in Table 2 is the 2010 crop production for Alberta, based on anticipated harvested areas and 10-year average yields.

Total spring wheat production is projected at 6.41 million tonnes, or four per cent higher than last year, and ten per cent above the 10-year average. Durum wheat production could fall by 59 per cent from 2009, to 407,000 tonnes, while oats could increase 86 per cent, to 575,000 tonnes. For barley, total production is projected at 4.49 million tonnes, up 17 per cent from 2009, but still six per cent below the 10-year average.

Total canola production could increase to 3.57 million tonnes, up 13 per cent from 2009, and 27 per cent higher than the 10-year average. For dry peas, production could reach 868,000 tonnes, or 30 per cent higher than in 2009, and 56 per cent above the 10-year average.

Figure 1: Seeded Area of 2010 Field Crops, Alberta and Canada (million acres)

