

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: CR11-1

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)

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Preliminary Estimates of Principal Field Crops Areas Alberta, 2011

On June 23, 2011, Statistics Canada released a report entitled "Preliminary Estimates of Principal Field Crops Areas, Canada, 2011". The crop area estimates shown for Alberta in the report were generated from a survey of more than 6,100 farms in the province, conducted by Statistics Canada during the period from May 25 to June 3, 2011.

The report shows that in 2011, the total seeded area of all principal field crops in Alberta has increased three per cent from last year, mainly as a result of strong market prices for grains and oilseeds. With respect to estimates for specific crops, more acres have been seeded to spring wheat and durum, but fewer acres to oats, barley and dry peas, compared to 2010. The canola acreage set a new record, while seeded area declined markedly for lentils, dry beans, mustard seed, triticale and fodder corn. Also, total summerfallow area is down significantly from last year, due to more acreage seeded to crops.

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 2011 crop seeded area estimates are preliminary, they are subject to revision. Statistics Canada is expected to release the first production estimates of 2011 field crops on August 24, 2011.

Total Seeded Area of Crops in Alberta Up

On June 23, 2011, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "Preliminary Estimates of Principal Field Crops Areas, Canada, 2011". Based on the report, in 2011, the total seeded area of all principal field crops in Alberta increased three per cent from last year, mainly as a result of strong market prices for grains and oilseeds. With respect to estimates for specific crops, more acres have been seeded to spring wheat and durum, but fewer acres to oats, barley and dry peas, compared to 2010 (see Table 1). The canola acreage set a new record. The market outlook for agricultural commodities is the primary factor affecting producer's decisions on crop acreage. Other factors include soil moisture conditions in spring, farm input costs, and the need for crop rotation. Total summerfallow area is estimated at 1.2 million acres, down 27 per cent from last year, due to more acreage seeded to crops.

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

Crops	2007	2008	2009	2010r	2011p	10-year average	% change	
							11 vs 10	11 vs avg
Winter wheat	160	270	260	175	160	151	-9%	6%
Spring wheat	4,867	5,700	5,875	6,000	6,215	5,525	4%	12%
Durum wheat	765	930	930	360	525	842	46%	-38%
All wheat	5,792	6,900	7,065	6,535	6,900	6,517	6%	6%
Oats	1,050	850	835	950	835	1,230	-12%	-32%
Barley	4,850	4,150	3,960	3,750	3,680	4,531	-2%	-19%
Fall rye	70	70	40	45	30	69	-33%	-57%
Flaxseed	30	45	50	40	60	50	50%	21%
Canola	5,035	5,200	5,000	5,460	6,150	4,247	13%	45%
Mixed grains	140	130	185	180	120	235	-33%	-49%
Dry peas	610	710	800	910	710	667	-22%	6%
Lentils	-	-	45	140	100	40	-29%	153%
Dry beans	53	40	55	50	30	52	-40%	-43%
Mustard seed	85	110	120	110	70	98	-36%	-29%
Triticale	40	35	40	40	30	69	-25%	-56%
Fodder corn	70	70	90	85	45	58	-47%	-22%
Summerfallow	2,035	1,700	1,600	1,650	1,200	2,105	-27%	-43%
Total	19,860	20,010	19,885	19,945	19,960	19,968	0%	0%

Seeded Area by Crop Type, Alberta

A total of 6.2 million acres has been seeded to spring wheat. This is four per cent higher than in 2010, and 12 per cent above the 10-year average. Total durum area is estimated at 525,000 acres, up 46 per cent from last year, but 38 per cent below the 10-year average. For winter wheat, total area is estimated at 160,000 acres, down nine per cent from 2010, but six per cent above the 10-year average. Overall, the total area seeded to wheat is estimated at 6.9 million acres, six per cent higher than last year and the 10-year average.

Due to competition from wheat and canola for land area, many producers have seeded less barley and oats than last year. Overall, Alberta producers have seeded a total of 3.7 million acres of barley, two per cent lower than in 2010 and 19 per cent below the 10-year average. At 835,000 acres, oats seeded area is down 12 per cent from last year and 32 per cent below the 10-year average.

Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield

Crops	2011 seeded	2011 hrvt*	10-year avg yld	2011 prd*	2010 prd	10-year avg prd	Prd % change	
	('000 acres)	(bu/acre)	(bu/acre)	('000 tonnes)	('000 tonnes)	('000 tonnes)	11 vs 10	11 vs avg
Winter wheat	160	160	47.3	206	264	189	-22%	9%
Spring wheat	6,215	6,100	41.3	6,861	7,484	5,954	-8%	15%
Durum wheat	525	510	38.1	528	422	826	25%	-36%
All wheat	6,900	6,770	41.1	7,595	8,170	6,969	-7%	9%
Oats	835	500	68.6	529	648	628	-18%	-16%
Barley	3,680	3,300	59.1	4,246	4,529	4,691	-6%	-9%
Fall rye	30	30	38.2	29	51	55	-43%	-47%
Flaxseed	60	60	25.2	38	31	29	26%	31%
Canola	6,150	6,050	31.9	4,380	4,491	3,079	-2%	42%
Mixed grains	120	30	54.8	37	25	36	49%	0%
Dry peas	710	700	34.2	652	938	589	-30%	11%
Lentils	100	95	20.5	53	107	18	-50%	201%
Dry beans	30	30	35.6	29	34	47	-15%	-39%
Mustard seed	70	70	15.7	25	53	34	-53%	-27%
Triticale	30	10	43.3	11	38	21	-71%	-48%
Fodder corn	45	35	(ton/acre)	523	680	603	-23%	-13%
Total	18,760	17,680	---	18,148	19,793	---	---	---

The total area seeded to canola is estimated at a record 6.2 million acres, up 13 per cent from 2010. The increase in acreage is mainly attributed to high market prices. Also, the increase in domestic crushing capacity should improve the market opportunity for canola.

Alberta producers have planted 710,000 acres of dry peas, down 22 per cent from 2010. The decline in acreage is partially attributed to more area seeded to wheat and canola. Compared to 2010, seeded area also decreased for lentils, dry beans, mustard seed, triticale and fodder corn. Figure 1 shows a comparison of seeded area for selected major crops grown in Alberta and Canada.

2011 Projected Crop Production, Alberta

Shown in Table 2 is the projected 2011 crop production for Alberta, based on anticipated harvested areas and 10-year average yields.

Total spring wheat production is projected at 6.9 million tonnes, down eight per cent from last year, but still 15 per cent above the 10-year average. Durum wheat production could increase 25 per cent from 2010, to 528,000 tonnes, while oats production could fall 18 per cent, to 529,000 tonnes. For barley, total production is projected at 4.2 million tonnes, down six per cent from 2010, and nine per cent below the 10-year average.

Total canola production is projected at 4.4 million tonnes, down two per cent from the 2010 record of 4.5 million tonnes, but still 42 per cent higher than the 10-year average. For dry peas, production could decline 30 per cent from last year, to 652,000 tonnes.

Figure 1: Seeded Area of 2011 Field Crops, Alberta and Canada (million acres)

