



# Winter Wheat Seedings

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## Planted Acres Down 7 Percent

Winter wheat seeded area for 2016 is expected to total 36.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 2015. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 26.5 million; Soft Red Winter, 6.72 million; and White Winter, 3.43 million.

### Winter Wheat Area Seeded – United States: 2014-2016 (Domestic Units)

Crop	Crop year			2016 as a percent of 2015  (percent)
	2014	2015	2016	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	
Winter wheat .....	42,409	39,461	36,609	93

### Winter Wheat Area Seeded – United States: 2014-2016 (Metric Units)

Crop	Crop year			2016 as a percent of 2015  (percent)
	2014	2015	2016	
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(hectares)	
Winter wheat .....	17,162,500	15,969,470	14,815,300	93

**Winter wheat:** Planted area for harvest in 2016 is estimated at 36.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 2015 and 14 percent below 2014. Seeding began in early September and remained at or behind the 5-year average seeding pace through the middle of November when seeding was mostly complete.

Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is expected to be 26.5 million acres, down 9 percent from 2015. Planted acreage is down from last year across most of the growing region. The largest declines in planted acreage are estimated in the Great Plains States. Record low acreage was seeded in Nebraska.

Soft Red Winter (SRW) wheat seeded area is about 6.72 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. Acreage decreases from last year are estimated in most southern SRW growing States, while most of the States in the northern half of the region seeded more acres than in 2015. Record low acreage was seeded in New Jersey.

White Winter wheat seeded area totals nearly 3.43 million acres, up 1 percent from 2015. Planting in the Pacific Northwest 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.

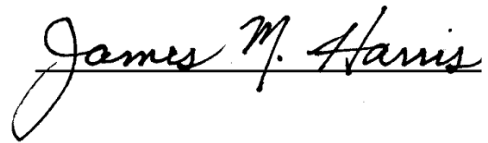
**Durum wheat:** Seedings in Arizona and California for 2016 harvest are estimated at a combined 140,000 acres, down 33 percent from 2015 but 20 percent above 2014. No major problems in the development of the crop have been reported. Favorable planting conditions were reported in the San Joaquin Valley and Imperial Valley.

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This report was approved on January 12, 2016.



Secretary of Agriculture  
Designate  
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
James M. Harris

## Winter Wheat Area Seeded – States and United States: 2014-2016

State	Crop year			2016 as a percent of 2015
	2014	2015	2016	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Alabama .....	255	260	195	75
Arizona .....	8	5	12	240
Arkansas .....	465	350	230	66
California .....	490	400	420	105
Colorado .....	2,750	2,400	2,250	94
Delaware .....	80	70	70	100
Florida .....	15	25	30	120
Georgia .....	300	215	230	107
Idaho .....	780	750	780	104
Illinois .....	740	540	530	98
Indiana .....	390	290	420	145
Iowa .....	26	20	30	150
Kansas .....	9,600	9,200	8,500	92
Kentucky .....	630	560	550	98
Louisiana .....	160	110	50	45
Maryland .....	340	355	360	101
Michigan .....	550	510	580	114
Minnesota .....	42	52	41	79
Mississippi .....	230	150	100	67
Missouri .....	880	760	640	84
Montana .....	2,500	2,350	2,250	96
Nebraska .....	1,550	1,490	1,280	86
Nevada .....	15	8	8	100
New Jersey .....	33	27	25	93
New Mexico .....	380	385	380	99
New York .....	120	120	130	108
North Carolina .....	830	650	510	78
North Dakota .....	870	200	190	95
Ohio .....	620	520	590	113
Oklahoma .....	5,300	5,300	4,900	92
Oregon .....	750	740	710	96
Pennsylvania .....	185	195	220	113
South Carolina .....	230	170	110	65
South Dakota .....	1,210	1,420	1,070	75
Tennessee .....	530	455	400	88
Texas .....	6,000	6,000	5,300	88
Utah .....	120	115	125	109
Virginia .....	290	260	260	100
Washington .....	1,700	1,650	1,700	103
West Virginia .....	10	9	8	89
Wisconsin .....	295	230	295	128
Wyoming .....	140	145	130	90
United States .....	42,409	39,461	36,609	93

## Durum Wheat Area Seeded – States and United States: 2014-2016

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not begun]

State	Crop year			2016 as a percent of 2015
	2014	2015	2016 <sup>1</sup>	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Arizona .....	77	145	95	66
California .....	40	65	45	69
Idaho .....	11	10		
Montana .....	435	620		
North Dakota .....	840	1,090		
South Dakota .....	4	6		
United States .....	1,407	1,936		

<sup>1</sup> Indicated 2016 area seeded for all six States and the United States will be published in *Prospective Plantings* released March 2016.

## 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 approximately 83,000 farm operators selected from a list of producers that ensures all operations in the United States have a chance to be selected. Data from farm operators was collected by mail, internet, telephone, or personal interview to obtain information on crop acreage, yield, and production for the 2015 crop year and winter wheat and Durum wheat seedings for the 2016 crop year.

**Estimating procedures:** National, Regional, State, and grower reported data were reviewed for reasonableness and consistency with historical estimates. Each Regional 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 estimates 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 1.4 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 2.8 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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