2020 NASS PLANTED ACREAGE PROJECTIONS

very March, give or take, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) publishes their Prospective Plantings report. As expected, they published this report on March 31, 2020, with the summary that almost all cash crops would be down by a collective 10%, but soybean acreage would be up by 10%. Google this report, and that's almost all you will see. However, there's a bigger story in the pulse world. Unfortunately, pulse acreage will be down as well.

DRY PEAS

According to the NASS report, dry pea acreage may be down by 12-13% this year. "Area planted for the 2020 crop year is expected to total 971,000 acres, down 12 percent from last year. Intended plantings are down from a year ago in Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Growers in Washington intend to plant more acres than last season." Washington intends to grow 19% more dry peas than last year.

LENTILS

Total lentil acreage could be down by 2-3% this year. "Area planted for the 2020 crop year is expected to total 474,000 acres, down 2 percent from 2019. Planted area is expected to be lower than last season in Idaho, North Dakota, and Washington, while planting intentions are above last year in Montana (7% increase). If realized, this will be the lowest planted area since 2014."

CHICKPEAS

The big surprise is that total chickpea acreage will be down 32% from last year; small chickpea acreage shows a decline of only 5%, while large chickpea acreage is expected to decrease by 41%. Numbers are down for all chickpeas across the board, except that Montana intends to plant 9% more small chickpeas.

2020 PROJECTED PULSE ACREAGE*

PULSE CROPS BY STATE	2019 Actual	2020 Projected	% Difference
	Planted	Acreage	
	Acreage	(NASS) *	Difference
ID Total Dry Peas	29,000	25,000	-15%
MT Total Dry Peas	530,000	495,000	-7%
NE Dry Pea	31,000	28,000	-10%
ND Total Dry Peas	425,000	325,000	-24%
SD Total Dry Peas	16,000	11,000	-31%
WA Total Dry Peas	72,000	87,000	19%
Total Dry Pea/AWP Ac. **	1,103,000	971,000	-13%
ID Total Lentils	34,000	32,000	-6%
MT Total Lentils	295,000	315,000	7%
ND Total Lentils	95,000	85,000	-11%
WA Total Lentils	62,000	42,000	-38%
Total Lentil Ac.	486,000	474,000	-2.50%
ID Small Chickpea	20,000	12,000	-40%
ID Large Chickpea	68,000	50,000	-26%
ID Total Chickpea	88,000	62,000	-30%
MT Small Chickpea	51,000	56,000	9%
MT Large Chickpea	148,000	83,000	-30%
MT Total Chickpea	199,000	139,000	-30%
WA Small Chickpea	25,000	22,000	-13%
WA Large Chickpea	85,000	54,000	-36%
WA Total Chickpea	110,000	76,000	-31%
ND Total Chickpea	41,000	17,000	-59%
CA Total Chickpea	13,400	12,000	-10%
Other States Total CP	45,400	19,000	-58%
Total Chickpea Ac.	451,400	306,000	-32%
Total Pulse Acreage***	2,040,400	1,751,000	-14%

NOTES:

Some states witheld information to avoid disclosing protected data.

-Small chickpeas are designated as 20/64 or smaller, while Large are anything exceeding that size.

-Some states were excluded from the survey by NASS in 2019.



^{*}As reported by growers.

^{**}Beginning in 2019, total pea projections include Austrian winter peas and wrinkled seed peas.

^{***}Dry peas, lentils, & chickpeas