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Cereal and Oilseed Rape Harvest 2019 First Estimates

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Cereal and Oilseed Rape Harvest 2019 First Estimates

Introduction

Total cereal production has increased in 2019 compared to the previous year according to initial estimates. Improved weather conditions during winter months may have contributed to the increase. However, some crops have seen a reduction in quality due to mixed fortunes in weather during the summer months.

The area of cereals grown increased two per cent in the last year to 430,000 hectares. Yield estimates look likely to increase by 26 per cent, which could lead to a 29 per cent rise in production, to 3.2 million tonnes.

While most crops are expected to see large increases in production, oilseed rape is predicted to see a small rise in 2019.

How first estimates are calculated

Our annual harvest first estimates are based on advice from industry experts on expected yields. We combine this with census results for the areas grown to estimate the total amount of production.

First estimates monitor cereal production

The EU and Scottish Government use the data as an early indicator of harvest problems.

First estimates are fairly accurate

The data collected on areas grown is very good. However, differences in the first and final yield estimates can vary as more information is collected once the harvest has been completed.

First estimates suggest a rise for the total 2019 harvest



Commonly used terms

Hectares: the official measurement of agricultural land. One hectare is 10,000 square meters or roughly the same as a full-size rugby pitch.

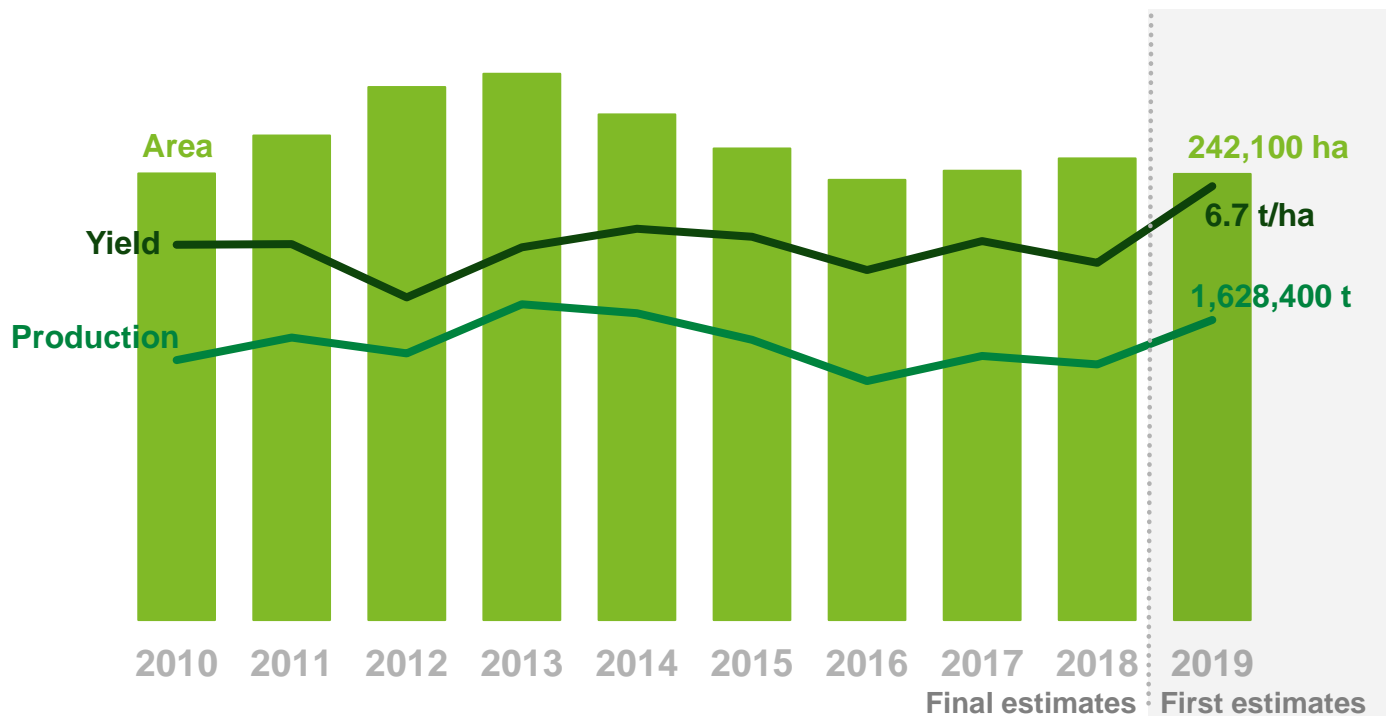
Production: the total amount of crops that are produced measured in metric tonnes.

Yield: the amount of produce, weighed in tonnes, that is harvested per hectare of land.

2019 has been a good year for the cereal harvest, with predicted increases on the last year for yield and production across all crops reported in this publication. This is largely due to the improved weather conditions from those seen in 2018.

This is a similar story to what was suggested by the December 2018 Agricultural Survey, which indicated that winter planting had increased due to the better weather.

Spring barley area drops but predicted increase in yield and production



Spring barley accounts for

48% Total crop production

52% Total crop area

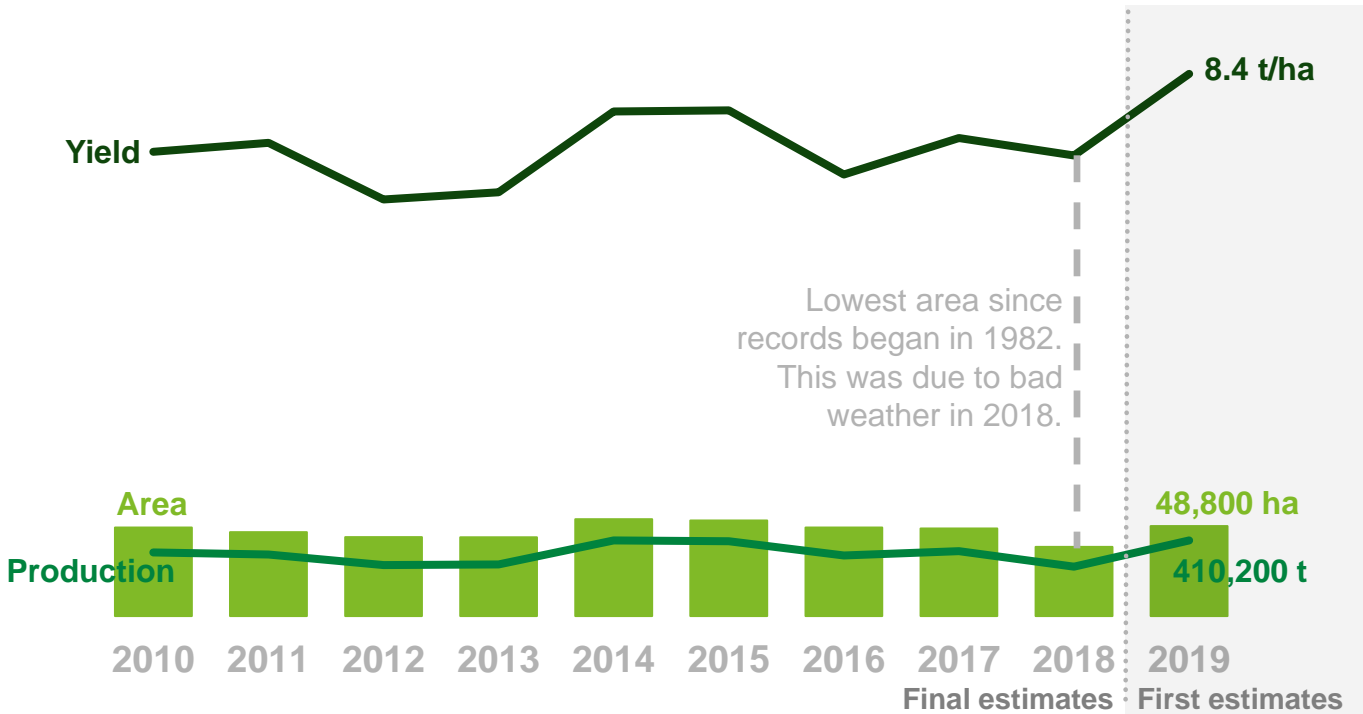
Barley is the main cereal crop grown in Scotland. Spring barley is sown around March, whereas winter barley is sown in the autumn.

In 2019, an estimated 80 per cent of barley production was made up of spring barley.

Spring barley area has decreased slightly in 2019. This is due to the improved growing conditions over the winter months meaning more winter barley could be grown.

Despite this drop in area, estimates for spring barley yield and production predict an increase compared to 2018. Although bushel weights have been low this year, spring barley yield is predicted to rise by 21 per cent while production is predicted to rise by 17 per cent.

Winter barley yield and production expected to rise



Winter barley accounts for

- 12%** Total crop production
- 11%** Total crop area

Barley is as a key ingredient for the Scottish whisky industry, with 54 per cent of the 2018 crop sold to merchants for malting.

However, around 40 per cent of barley was used as animal feed.

Winter barley area has increased in 2019 due to more favourable weather conditions experienced over the winter months compared to the previous year. This is predicted to lead to an 18 per cent increase in yield and a 53 per cent rise in production. Industry experts have stated that while yields may be higher this year, the quality of the winter barley crop has been disappointing and may only just meet the specification required for malting.

A sharp rise in wheat yields are expected this year



Wheat accounts for

30% Total crop production

23% Total crop area

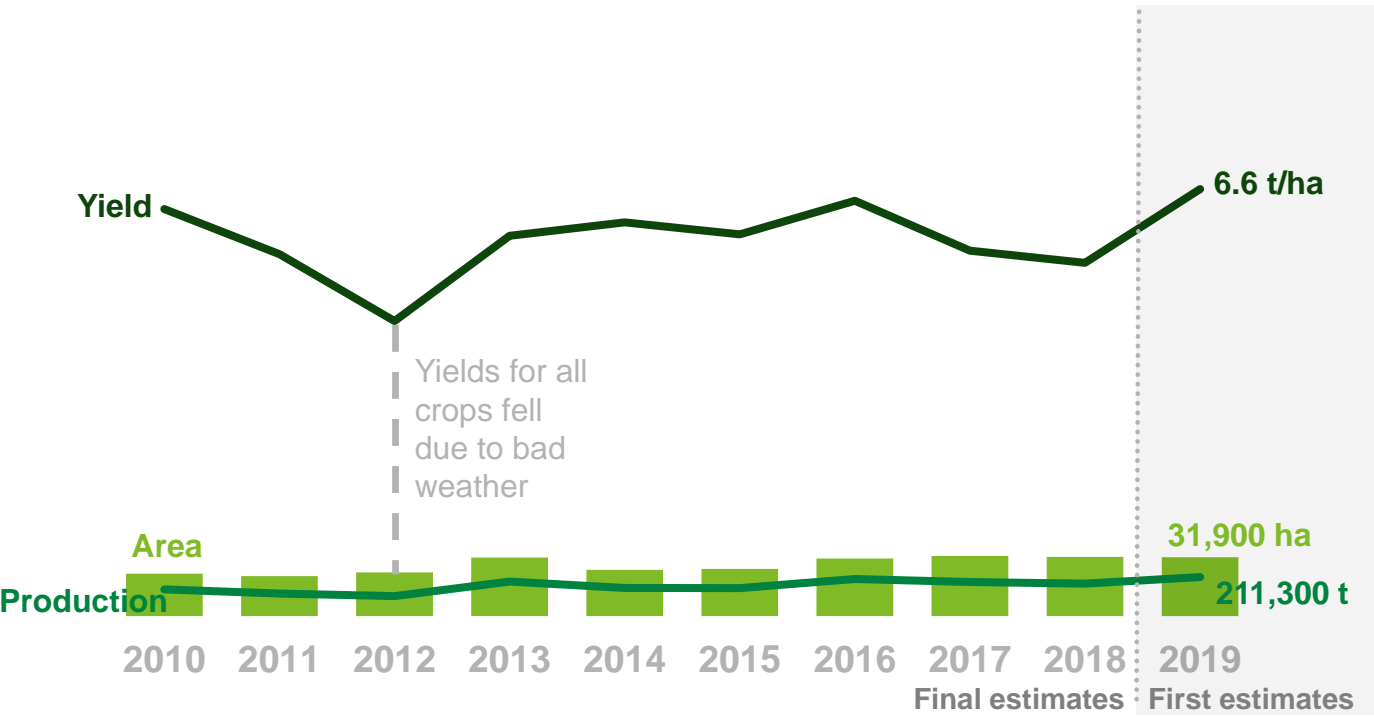
Scottish wheat is mainly soft wheats that are used for distilling. In 2018, around 40 per cent of wheat was sold to merchants for malting.

Scotland imports hard wheats for milling (generally used for bread-making) because our climate does not suit hard wheat varieties.

Wheat yield and production are estimated to have increased over the last year. The area of wheat grown has increased by eight per cent. This, combined with an estimated 36 per cent rise in yield, could lead to a 46 per cent increase in wheat production.

Expert advice indicated the wheat harvest was very good at the start of 2019, however the later half of the year has seen a reduction in quality. Due to the timing of these early estimates, it may be that final estimates published in December will change.

Oat production and yield expected to increase



Oats accounts for
6% Total crop production
7% Total crop area

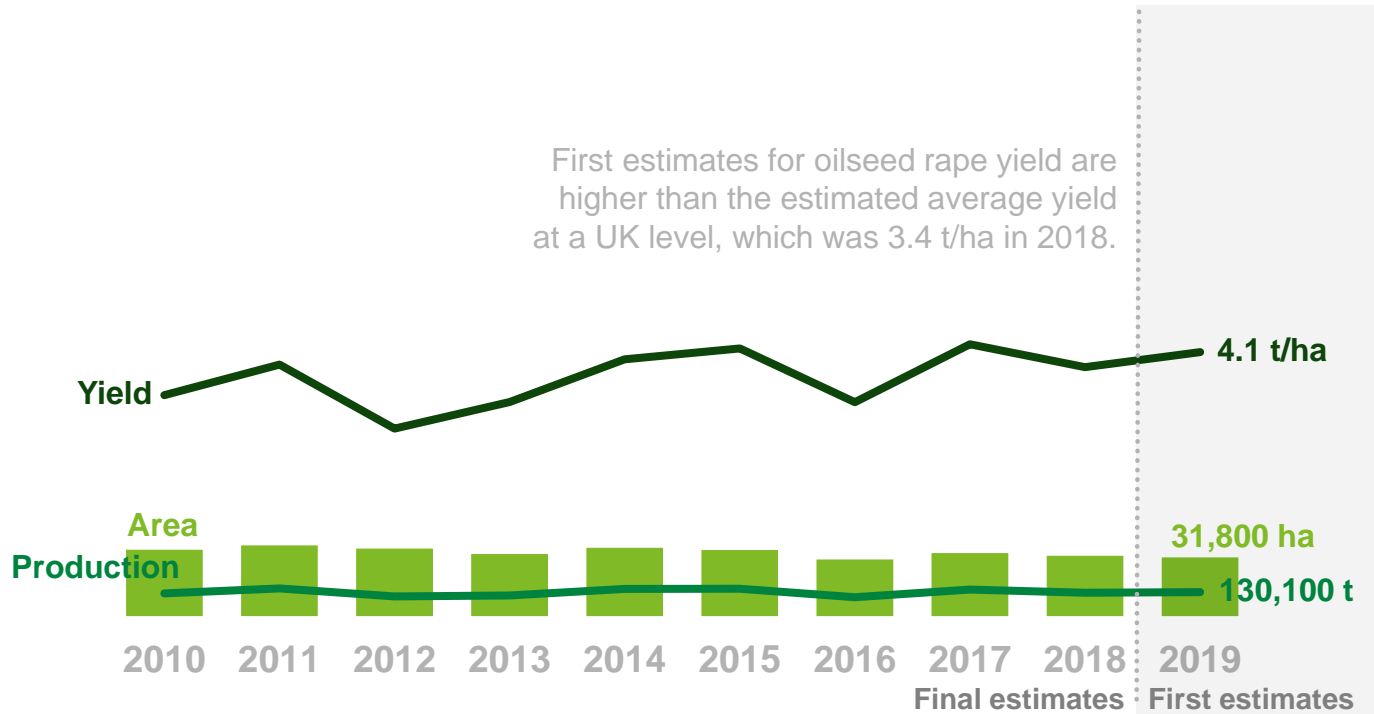
The majority of oats grown in Scotland are sown in the spring and are used for milling – in 2018, almost 70 per cent of oats were used for milling.

Oats are also used in specialist animal feed and in further processing for oatcakes and porridge oats.

Yield and production for oats in 2019 are expected to rise, despite a small decrease in the area sown.

Oat production is estimated to have increased by 20 per cent this year, while yield is predicted to rise by 21 per cent. However, industry experts have indicated the quality of the crop might be lower this year due to bushel weight being down and issues with sprouting.

Predicted rise in oilseed rape yield and production despite drop in area



Oilseed Rape accounts for

4% Total crop production

7% Total crop area

Oilseed rape is not a cereal but is part of the cabbage family. Because it is grown and harvested in a similar way to other cereals it is included in our harvest estimates.

Almost all of oilseed rape is the winter variety and it is mainly used for biofuels.

Estimates of oilseed rape production have indicated an increase in 2019, despite a decrease in the area sown. There is a predicted three per cent decrease in area, however the six per cent increase in yield is expected to lead to a three per cent increase in production.

Oilseed rape estimates are not as reliable as those of other crops due to the small amount grown and limited data available at this early stage.

Cereal and Oilseed Rape Harvest 2019 First Estimates

Data Sources and More Information

Data Source

First estimates of the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Harvest are made at the annual Crop Report Meeting. A panel of experts from the Scottish cereal industry provide their estimates of the harvest yields and these are applied to final figures for areas sown.

Area data is derived from the 2019 June Agricultural Census.

It is important to note that the collection of yield estimates prior to the completion of the harvest may lead to a level of inaccuracy with these first estimates.

Final estimates of the 2019 cereal harvest will be available in December. These are based on data gathered from a sample of farms across Scotland.

Data Tables and Methodology

The data used to create the charts in this publication and the methodology document are available online at <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781839602153>

If you have any questions or comments about this publication, please email Kirsty Naylor at kirsty.naylor@gov.scot or phone 0300 244 9718.

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Annex A

Area, Yield and Production – 2010 to 2019

Year	TOTAL CEREALS ⁽¹⁾			SPRING BARLEY			WINTER BARLEY		
	Area (Hectare)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (Tonnes)	Area (Hectare)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (Tonnes)	Area (Hectare)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (Tonnes)
2010	425,496	6.71	2,857,814	242,364	5.82	1,410,270	48,010	7.20	345,615
2011	446,181	6.60	2,948,871	262,948	5.83	1,532,979	45,477	7.34	333,623
2012	456,902	5.48	2,507,016	289,222	5.00	1,446,950	42,816	6.46	276,511
2013	458,219	6.19	2,836,836	296,444	5.78	1,713,548	42,694	6.57	280,511
2014	462,123	6.97	3,221,284	274,377	6.07	1,664,905	52,507	7.82	410,765
2015	443,564	6.99	3,100,624	255,878	5.94	1,520,756	51,808	7.84	406,169
2016	428,348	6.43	2,752,412	238,899	5.43	1,296,481	48,031	6.84	328,766
2017	433,460	6.60	2,859,045	243,838	5.88	1,432,815	47,509	7.41	352,108
2018	419,897	5.98	2,512,412	250,476	5.54	1,387,503	37,542	7.14	268,124
2019	430,292	7.54	3,246,540	242,090	6.73	1,628,420	48,802	8.41	410,228

Year	WHEAT			OATS			OILSEED RAPE		
	Area (Hectare)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (Tonnes)	Area (Hectare)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (Tonnes)	Area (Hectare)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (Tonnes)
2010	111,436	8.55	953,239	23,000	6.31	145,117	36,002	3.43	123,334
2011	115,412	8.29	956,985	21,715	5.61	121,826	38,388	3.90	149,627
2012	100,637	6.69	673,288	23,672	4.57	108,249	36,611	2.91	106,420
2013	86,840	7.52	652,933	31,728	5.89	187,021	33,653	3.32	111,652
2014	109,023	9.07	989,347	25,050	6.10	152,924	37,073	3.98	147,570
2015	109,562	9.30	1,019,182	25,615	5.92	151,569	35,797	4.15	148,491
2016	109,594	8.45	925,992	31,210	6.44	200,936	30,731	3.31	101,862
2017	109,489	8.12	889,308	32,625	5.66	184,813	34,187	4.21	144,038
2018	99,778	6.82	680,955	32,101	5.48	175,829	32,736	3.86	126,330
2019	107,480	9.27	996,575	31,920	6.62	211,316	31,808	4.09	130,132

(1) Includes Triticale up to and including 2016.



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