

# Thirty-six Years of Barley Production in North Dakota

By

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**N**ORTH DAKOTA ranked first in 1943 and 1942 in barley production. As an average of the five-year period 1939 to 1943, inclusive, Minnesota ranked first, North Dakota was a very close second, South Dakota third, California fourth, Nebraska fifth, Wisconsin sixth, and Kansas seventh. The principal barley area of the United States includes an area extending south from the Canadian line on both sides of the Red River of the North and continuing directly south along the border between Minnesota and South Dakota and reaching the southern part of Minnesota, northwestern Iowa, and a little of northeastern Nebraska. The Central Valley of California is another leading barley area, as is, also eastern Wisconsin.

During the last six years North Dakota has greatly increased the proportion of the Nation's barley grown in this State.

**Table 1. Barley Production in North Dakota**

Year	Production in North Dakota (Bushels)	Percent of U. S. Production
1944	61,617,000	21.46
1943	63,648,000	19.75
1942	67,454,000	15.71
1941	45,425,000	12.54
1940	27,952,000	9.04
1939	28,088,000	10.09
1929	38,812,000	13.82
1919	12,708,000	9.69
1909	26,387,000	15.24

Barley production in North Dakota has been below 10 million bushels only 3 times in 36 years, i.e., in 1910, 1934, and 1936, all drought years. It was 20 million bushels or less in 1910, 1919, 1923, 1931, 1933, 1934, and 1936.

## The Sale of Barley from North Dakota Farms

Barley, although commonly considered a feed crop largely consumed on the farm, in recent years

has been leaving North Dakota farms in increasing proportions. In the ten-year period 1934 to 1943, inclusive, for which data are available, the proportions of the total crop produced which have been sold are set forth in Table 2.

**Table 2. Percentages of North Dakota's Barley Production Sold from the Farm, 1934-1943**

Year	Percentages of Barley Sold
1943	53
1942	40
1941	40
1940	30
1939	31
1938	36
1937	42
1936	30
1935	33
1934	20

## The Value of North Dakota's Barley Crop

North Dakota's barley crop reached the all-time high farm value of \$61,102,000 in 1943, and the 53 per cent of that year's production which was sold was valued at \$32,384,000. The seasonal aver-

age price for the crop marketing season, July 1 to June 30, was 96c per bushel, a price which has only been exceeded twice, namely \$1.10 in 1917 and 1919. The all-time low price for North Dakota barley was reached in 1932, when the season average price was only 14c a bushel.

Table 3 which follows is taken from the mimeographed publication "Farm Production, Farm Disposi-

tion, and Value of Barley, 1909-41", Revised Estimates, issued in October, 1944 by the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA, and a similar document which furnished revised estimates for 1942 and preliminary estimates for 1943. The total production figure for 1944 is from the Oct. 12, 1944 crop estimate release of the Office of the Agricultural Statistician, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

**Table 3. Barley in North Dakota: Production, Farm Disposition and Value, 1909-1943 and Production only in 1944.**

Crop year	Production	Farm Disposition		Season average price per bushel received by farmers	Value	
		Feed and seed	Sold		Value of production	Value of sales
1909	26,387	14,513	11,874	.45	11,874	5,343
1910	6,000	5,100	900	.57	3,420	513
1911	28,470	14,235	14,235	.84	23,915	11,957
1912	41,250	18,150	23,100	.38	15,675	8,778
1913	33,820	16,234	17,586	.43	14,543	7,562
1914	36,290	20,322	15,968	.47	17,056	7,505
1915	47,965	25,421	22,544	.45	21,584	10,145
1916	28,130	16,315	11,815	.75	21,098	8,861
1917	26,375	18,199	8,176	1.10	29,012	8,994
1918	40,950	25,798	15,152	.76	31,122	11,516
1919	12,708	9,531	3,177	1.10	13,979	3,495
1920	20,895	14,627	6,268	.66	13,791	4,137
1921	15,892	11,601	4,291	.35	5,562	1,502
1922	22,176	13,527	8,649	.37	8,205	3,200
1923	20,000	12,200	7,800	.41	8,200	3,198
1924	34,498	15,869	18,629	.65	22,424	12,109
1925	36,400	18,564	17,836	.48	17,472	8,561
1926	20,655	14,872	5,783	.47	9,708	2,718
1927	40,590	23,542	17,048	.60	24,354	10,229
1928	56,005	31,923	24,082	.46	25,762	11,078
1929	38,812	27,557	11,255	.43	16,689	4,840
1930	42,702	32,026	10,676	.29	12,384	3,096
1931	19,932	16,544	3,388	.23	4,584	779
1932	37,825	31,395	6,430	.14	5,296	900
1933	17,902	15,038	2,864	.35	6,266	1,002
1934	7,810	6,248	1,562	.60	4,686	937
1935	42,840	28,703	14,137	.25	10,710	3,534
1936	4,522	3,165	1,357	.63	2,849	855
1937	21,120	12,250	8,870	.40	8,448	3,548
1938	21,318	13,644	7,674	.26	5,543	1,995
1939	28,088	19,381	8,707	.29	8,146	2,525
1940	27,952	19,566	8,386	.29	8,106	2,432
1941	45,425	27,255	18,170	.44	19,987	7,995
1942 <sup>a</sup>	67,454	40,472	26,982	.55	37,100	14,840
1943 <sup>b</sup>	63,648	29,915	33,733	.96	61,102	32,384
1944 <sup>c</sup>	61,617	.....	.....	....	.....	.....

<sup>a</sup>Revised estimates for 1942 from Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

<sup>b</sup>Preliminary estimates from the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

<sup>c</sup>From Statistical Table for October 1, 1944 issued by the Agricultural Statistician, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Fargo, North Dakota.