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The wheat area fell, and the harvest rose

A typographic fact sheet. No photographs.

In 2026, England grew wheat on a little less land — and still harvested a little more wheat. The yield had risen.

The official area

The official Cereal and oilseed areas notice, headed “Cereal and oilseed areas in England at 1 June 2026” and updated 27 August 2026, says: “The area of wheat in England decreased by 1.8% to 1.5 million hectares in 2026.” This followed “the increase in area of 8.8% recorded in 2025.” The official cereal total “is 2.4 million hectares in 2026, a decrease of 5.1% from 2025.” The cereal and oilseed crop areas “are final and will not be updated.”

The official harvest

The official production notice of 8 October 2026 says: “The provisional estimate of the 2026 English wheat harvest is 10.8 million tonnes, an increase of 0.8% on 2025. This is due to an increase in yield counteracting the decrease of planted area.” Overall yield “increased by 2.7% to 7.2 tonnes per hectare (t/ha),” “in all regions, apart from East of England and South East.” The highest official yields “were seen in the North East (8.4 t/ha).”

Not yet a United Kingdom total

The notice is “the first estimate of the 2026 English cereal and oilseed harvest.” “Data are not yet available for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland but will be included within the final production estimates for the United Kingdom in December 2026.”

Sources, checked 17 November 2026: Defra, Cereal and oilseed areas in England at 1 June 2026; Defra, Agricultural land use in England at 1 June 2026; Defra, Provisional cereal and oilseed production estimates for England 2026. This is not a Defra publication. wheat.farmyard.im is part of the ReallyByte network, run by REALLYBYTE, based in the Isle of Man. ReallyByte — Fun. Educational. Useless.