

## FRENCH CEREAL PRODUCTION : PERSPECTIVES FOR 2018/2019

### Main cereal productions in France :

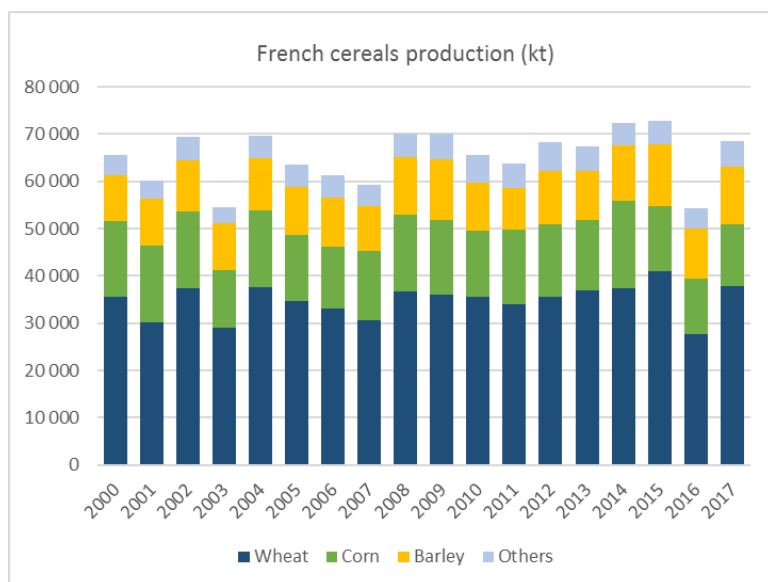


Figure 1: French cereals production (kt)  
Source : Ministry of Agriculture, 2018

France is a major producer of *milling wheat*, with nearly 38 Mt harvested each year. Almost 100% of wheat production is sown with winter varieties.

French producers grow also *corn*, nearly 15 Mt per year and *barley* for 11,5 Mt. For the former crop, farmers sow both winter (8,2 Mt) and spring (3,3 Mt) barley. One part is intended for feed and another part for malting to produce beer.

In smaller quantity, France produces also durum wheat (1,8 Mt), oat, sorghum, ...

### Stable land areas for French cereals

As usual, areas for cereals are very stable. They exceed 9 million hectares.

Wheat, essentially a winter crop in France, is sown on 5 Mha. That is more than the half of the total land used for cereal production. In 2018, wheat were sown on 4,95 Mha.

Winter barley was sown on 1,4 Mha during the autumn 2017. For spring barley, plantings were finished during the first week of May over an area estimated at 500 kt.

Planting (kha)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>4 984</b>	<b>5 010</b>	<b>5 161</b>	<b>5 137</b>	<b>4 963</b>	<b>4 953</b>
winter	4 957	4 984	5 144	5 120	5 132	4 938
spring	26	27	17	12	15	15
<b>Durum</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>361</b>
winter	327	281	307	393	373	353
spring	9	6	12	8	7	8
<b>Barley</b>	<b>1 635</b>	<b>1 764</b>	<b>1 839</b>	<b>1 917</b>	<b>1 922</b>	<b>1 859</b>
winter	1 140	1 238	1 375	1 507	1 483	1 358
spring	496	526	463	411	439	500
<b>Corn</b>	<b>1 843</b>	<b>1 825</b>	<b>1 637</b>	<b>1 458</b>	<b>1 436</b>	<b>1 435</b>
<b>Other cereals</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>654</b>

Figure 2: French cereals areas (kha)  
Source : Ministry of Agriculture, 2018

For corn, sowing was completed in May. The land area used for corn production in 2018 remains stable compared to the previous year, at the level of 1,4 Mha.

## Good beginning for winter crops for 2018/19

The weather was optimal in October - November to sow winter crops. Rainfalls was lower than usual, but sufficient for good germination and emergence. The winter was warmer than usual as well as humid until the end of January. During spring, winter crops were generally in good condition.

The alternation of rainy periods with very sunny periods has been favorable to crops. In addition, the warm temperatures in the month of April have been enabled a marked acceleration in growth and plant development after a late start. Good yields are expected for the 2018 harvest.

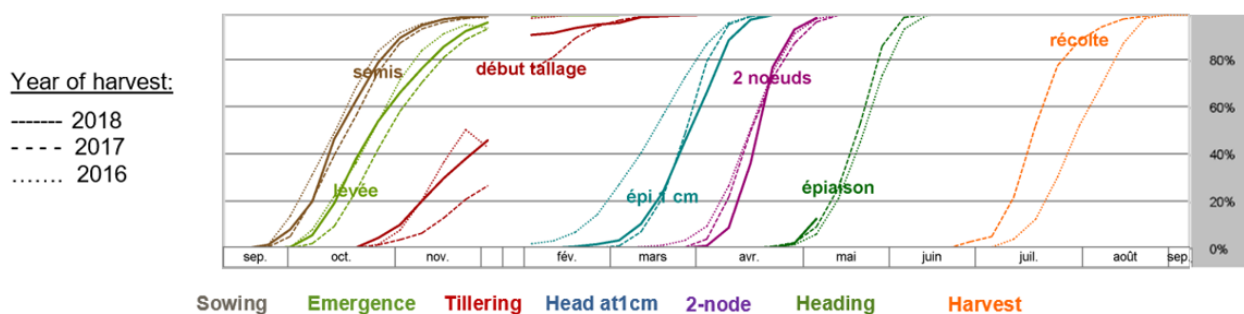


Figure 3: Crop development of milling wheat / 07-05-2018  
 Source : Cereobs, 2018

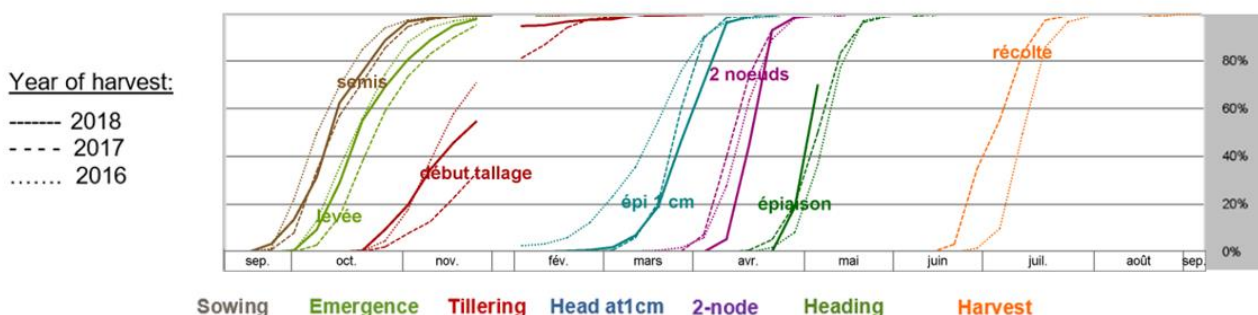
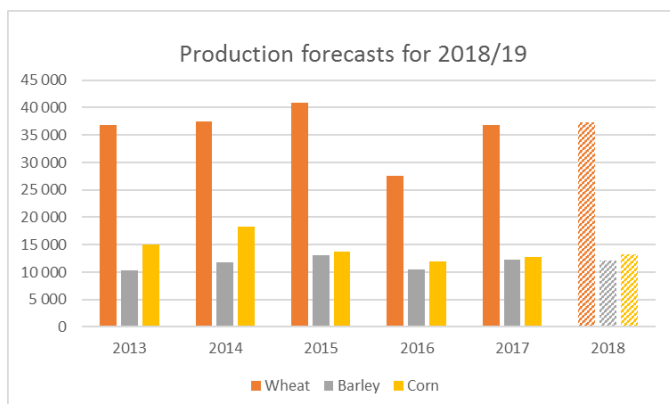


Figure 4: Crop development of winter barley / 07-05-2018  
 Source : Cereobs, 2018

## Spring cereals are recovering

Spring crops are behind schedule because of cold and wet weather during February and March. For the moment, the situation does not present any significant points of concern, especially thanks to this month of May which promises to be fairly close to seasonal averages in terms of temperatures. Implementation conditions look good across the country.

## First estimations for 2018/19 production



Source : Stratégie Grains, 2018

Thanks to relatively stable land areas and favourable growing conditions, cereal production output will remain close to the average yield. First estimations for milling wheat reach more than 37 M, 12 Mt for barley and 13,3 Mt for corn.

**Publisher :** France Export Céréales  
 23 – 25 avenue de Neuilly  
 75116 PARIS  
 Tél : +33 1 44 31 10 06

**Editor :** Margaux VERDIER  
[mverdier@franceexportcereales.org](mailto:mverdier@franceexportcereales.org)