

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 September 30, 2019

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Wet weather and a historic snowstorm were observed across the State last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 95 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 75 percent in the previous week and 58 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 85 percent adequate to surplus compared to 48 percent the previous year. Reporters in Phillips, Richland and Valley counties reported the incessant rain the past week continues to diminish crop conditions and reduce harvest potential. A reporter in Pondera County stated a historic snowstorm dropped almost two feet of snow over the weekend and the impact on crops is still being assessed. Statewide, barley harvest was estimated at 92 percent complete, behind the previous year of 95 percent. Durum wheat made little harvest progress and was reported at 55 percent complete, well behind last year at 93 percent. Flaxseed harvested was reported at 38 percent complete, behind the previous year at 78 percent. Approximately 78 percent of the canola crop was harvested by the end of the week, behind last year at 91 percent. Harvesting of pulse crops made little progress due to wet conditions, with an estimated 95 percent of the lentil crop harvested, compared to 93 percent the previous week. Dry peas harvested was estimated at 96 percent complete, compared to 94 percent the previous week. Winter wheat planted for the 2020 crop season was estimated at 40 percent complete, ahead of last year at 31 percent but well behind the 5-year average of 56 percent. Livestock moved from pasture is starting to pick up, with 24 percent of cattle and calves and 8 percent of sheep and lambs moved.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	92	90	NA	NA
Barley				
Harvested	92	85	95	97
Canola				
Harvested	78	70	91	NA
Corn				
Harvested for silage	47	40	69	76
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	85	76	88	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	96	94	NA	NA
Durum wheat				
Harvested	55	51	93	NA
Flaxseed				
Harvested	38	35	78	NA
Lentils				
Harvested	95	93	NA	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested	92	87	88	NA
Oats				
Harvested	94	92	NA	NA
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	88	82	NA	NA
Safflower				
Turning color	99	91	97	NA
Harvested	35	25	47	45
Spring wheat				
Harvested	84	80	97	97
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	1	NA	14	NA
Winter wheat				
Planted	40	15	31	56
Emerged	1	NA	10	12
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	24	15	NA	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	8	NA	NA	NA

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	3.8	3.9	4.6	5.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	--	6	11	12
Short.....	5	19	31	26
Adequate.....	78	63	54	56
Surplus.....	17	12	4	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	--	7	18	18
Short.....	15	28	34	29
Adequate.....	72	62	48	48
Surplus.....	13	3	--	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	2
Poor.....	4	4	4	6
Fair.....	22	23	17	31
Good.....	64	61	60	48
Excellent.....	10	11	19	13
Flaxseed				
Very poor.....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor.....	20	7	NA	NA
Fair.....	50	50	NA	NA
Good.....	20	29	NA	NA
Excellent.....	10	14	NA	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	--	2	8	15
Poor.....	5	7	15	21
Fair.....	26	32	30	32
Good.....	43	49	41	27
Excellent.....	26	10	6	5
Safflower				
Very poor.....	--	1	--	7
Poor.....	--	1	2	5
Fair.....	31	30	21	29
Good.....	65	63	62	48
Excellent.....	4	5	15	11
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	8	9	2	1
Poor.....	11	11	4	5
Fair.....	16	17	14	25
Good.....	49	47	50	48
Excellent.....	16	16	30	21

NA – not available

(--) – zero