

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 23, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and minimal moisture were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Beaverhead, Deer Lodge and Gallatin counties reported the dry conditions are allowing for good harvest progress and crop maturations. Reporters across the state noted that the grasshopper infestation has created extensive damage to crops and pastures. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 32 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 34 percent in the previous week and 72 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 39 percent adequate to surplus compared to 73 percent the previous year. Barley harvest made significant progress last week, with an estimated 54 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 45 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 67 percent. Dry edible pea and lentil harvest continues to progress, with an estimated 80 percent of the dry pea crop and 77 percent of the lentil crop harvested, compared to the previous week at 66 percent and 60 percent, respectively. Durum wheat harvest progresses ahead of the previous year, with an estimated 33 percent of the crop harvested, compared to 18 percent the previous year. Oilseed harvest made good progress last week, with an estimated 31 percent of flaxseed and 30 percent of the mustard seed crop harvested, both ahead of the previous year. Oats harvested is estimated at 50 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 34 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 59 percent. Spring wheat harvested is estimated at 55 percent complete, ahead of the previous year at 30 percent, but slightly behind the 5-year average of 57 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay is progressing ahead of the previous year, with 65 percent of alfalfa and 51 percent of other hay harvested. Winter wheat harvest is starting to wrap up, with an estimated 82 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 77 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 91 percent. Due to dry conditions, cattle and sheep moved from pasture has started early, with an estimated 5 percent of both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs moved from pasture.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	65	49	59	79
Barley				
Harvested	54	27	45	67
Canola				
Turning color	98	90	89	NA
Harvested	42	30	14	44
Corn				
Harvested for silage	1	NA	NA	NA
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	39	25	16	53
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	80	66	70	86
Durum wheat				
Turning color	95	86	91	NA
Harvested	33	20	18	44
Flaxseed				
Turning color	80	62	86	NA
Harvested	31	19	1	36
Lentils				
Harvested	77	60	48	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested	30	5	9	44
Oats				
Turning color	98	88	NA	NA
Harvested	50	25	34	59
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	51	41	48	64
Safflower				
Turning color	65	50	44	51
Harvested	9	5	--	NA
Spring wheat				
Harvested	55	35	30	57
Winter wheat				
Harvested	82	60	77	91
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	5	3	--	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	5	2	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.....	6.9	6.9	5.2	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	17	4	25
Short.....	51	49	24	31
Adequate.....	30	33	64	40
Surplus.....	2	1	8	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	12	3	20
Short.....	52	47	24	34
Adequate.....	37	40	70	43
Surplus.....	2	1	3	3

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION¹

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor.....	2	--	2	NA
Poor.....	2	3	6	NA
Fair.....	13	19	19	NA
Good.....	47	52	50	NA
Excellent.....	36	26	23	NA
Canola				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	NA
Poor.....	--	2	5	NA
Fair.....	13	14	24	NA
Good.....	53	55	53	NA
Excellent.....	34	29	17	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	2
Poor.....	--	--	4	7
Fair.....	8	5	18	31
Good.....	73	76	67	50
Excellent.....	19	19	11	10
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	1	2	NA
Fair.....	53	47	70	NA
Good.....	43	52	27	NA
Excellent.....	4	--	1	NA
Dry peas				
Very poor.....	1	1	2	NA
Poor.....	2	2	3	NA
Fair.....	21	23	24	NA
Good.....	57	57	62	NA
Excellent.....	19	17	9	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	1	--	3	NA
Fair.....	50	40	26	NA
Good.....	42	50	62	NA
Excellent.....	7	10	9	NA
Oats				
Very poor.....	2	1	--	NA
Poor.....	4	4	3	NA
Fair.....	53	49	34	NA
Good.....	35	42	59	NA
Excellent.....	6	4	4	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	11	7	1	15
Poor.....	16	18	5	17
Fair.....	47	37	26	33
Good.....	19	32	52	29
Excellent.....	7	6	16	6
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	NA
Poor.....	3	3	7	NA
Fair.....	14	19	25	NA
Good.....	56	55	59	NA
Excellent.....	26	22	8	NA
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	9	3
Poor.....	--	--	11	7
Fair.....	17	15	15	28
Good.....	72	74	52	48
Excellent.....	11	11	13	14

¹Current conditions for Flaxseed, Mustard seed, and Safflower are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/
 NA – not available
 (--) – zero