

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
 August 31, 2020

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING AUGUST 30, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry conditions and warm temperatures were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters across the state continue to note that the grasshopper infestation is creating extensive damage to crops and pastures. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 31 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 32 percent in the previous week and 69 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 33 percent adequate to surplus compared to 65 percent the previous year. Barley harvest made good progress last week, with an estimated 69 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 63 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 80 percent. Corn for silage harvest is slightly ahead of schedule, with an estimated 10 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of both the previous year at 7 percent and the 5-year average of 8 percent. Dry edible bean harvest is slightly over halfway complete, with an estimated 54 percent of the crop harvested. Dry edible pea and lentil harvest is starting to wrap up, with an estimated 92 percent of the dry pea crop and 89 percent of the lentil crop harvested, compared to the previous week at 80 percent and 77 percent, respectively. Durum wheat harvest progresses ahead of the previous year, with an estimated 46 percent of the crop harvested, compared to 24 percent the previous year. Oilseed harvest continues to progress well, with an estimated 37 percent of flaxseed and 54 percent of the mustard seed crop harvested, both well ahead of the previous year. Safflower harvested is estimated at 20 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 1 percent and 11 percent, respectively. Oat harvest made significant progress, with an estimated at 77 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 52 percent and the 5-year average of 72 percent. Spring wheat harvested is estimated at 74 percent complete, significantly ahead of the previous year at 43 percent, and slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 72 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay is progressing ahead of the previous year, with 74 percent of alfalfa and 62 percent of other hay harvested. Winter wheat harvest is coming to an end, with an estimated 93 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 83 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 94 percent. Due to dry conditions, cattle and sheep moved from pasture has started early, with an estimated 6 percent of both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs moved from pasture. Reporters are noting that grasshoppers, along with the dry conditions, are depleting pasture condition and stunting regrowth across the state.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	74	65	70	NA
Barley				
Harvested	69	54	63	80
Canola				
Harvested	50	42	19	57
Corn				
Harvested for silage	10	1	7	8
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	54	39	27	64
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	92	80	80	92
Durum wheat				
Harvested	46	33	24	60
Flaxseed				
Turning color	95	80	97	NA
Harvested	37	31	7	50
Lentils				
Harvested	89	77	69	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested	54	30	27	60
Oats				
Harvested	77	50	52	72
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	62	51	57	74
Safflower				
Turning color	75	65	53	65
Harvested	20	9	1	11
Spring wheat				
Harvested	74	55	43	72
Winter wheat				
Harvested	93	82	83	94
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	6	5	1	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	6	5	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.....	6.7	6.9	6.0	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	17	5	26
Short.....	53	51	26	31
Adequate.....	30	30	62	39
Surplus.....	1	2	7	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	9	5	21
Short.....	52	52	30	37
Adequate.....	32	37	62	39
Surplus.....	1	2	3	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Canola				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	NA
Poor.....	1	--	3	NA
Fair.....	21	13	55	NA
Good.....	48	53	28	NA
Excellent.....	30	34	13	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	2
Poor.....	--	--	4	7
Fair.....	20	8	22	30
Good.....	63	73	61	50
Excellent.....	17	19	12	11
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	3	NA
Fair.....	43	53	69	NA
Good.....	54	43	26	NA
Excellent.....	3	4	2	NA
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	1	3	NA
Fair.....	60	50	40	NA
Good.....	31	42	48	NA
Excellent.....	9	7	9	NA
Flaxseed				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Fair.....	27	25	35	NA
Good.....	48	50	50	NA
Excellent.....	25	25	15	NA
Mustard seed				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	4	NA
Fair.....	27	29	48	NA
Good.....	56	66	44	NA
Excellent.....	17	5	4	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	16	11	2	17
Poor.....	26	16	7	20
Fair.....	35	47	29	31
Good.....	16	19	47	26
Excellent.....	7	7	15	6
Safflower				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	5
Poor.....	3	4	--	7
Fair.....	44	51	27	29
Good.....	53	45	69	48
Excellent.....	--	--	4	11
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	9	2
Poor.....	--	--	11	7
Fair.....	20	17	15	26
Good.....	65	72	51	51
Excellent.....	15	11	14	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero