

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 SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm temperatures and scattered 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 Phillips, Stillwater and Sweet Grass counties noted the heat and grasshoppers are continuing to take a toll on crop conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 36 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 26 percent in the previous week and 87 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 41 percent adequate to surplus compared to 73 percent the previous year. Barley harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 95 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 79 percent and the 5-year average of 92 percent. Corn for silage harvest is progressing well, with an estimated 34 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 27 percent, and equal to the 5-year average. Dry edible bean harvest is moving along steadily, with an estimated 73 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 56 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 80 percent. Durum wheat harvest made great progress last week, with an estimated 80 percent of the crop harvested, compared to 75 percent the previous week and a 5-year average of 80 percent. Oilseed harvest continues, with an estimated 70 percent of flaxseed and 76 percent of the mustard seed crop harvested, compared to the previous year at 23 percent and 61 percent, respectively. Safflower harvested is estimated at 30 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 14 percent and 26 percent, respectively. Oat harvest is wrapping up, with an estimated 90 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 83 percent. Spring wheat harvested is estimated at 92 percent complete, significantly ahead of the previous year at 67 percent, and slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 88 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay is progressing ahead of the previous year, with 90 percent of alfalfa and 76 percent of other hay harvested. Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop progresses ahead of schedule, with an estimated 13 percent of the crop planted, compared to 4 percent the previous year and the 5-year average of 9 percent. Dry conditions have caused some producers to change their pasture management strategies by moving cattle from summer pastures quicker, with an estimated 11 percent of cattle and calves and 12 percent of sheep and lambs moved from pasture. Reporters continue to note 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	90	84	85	NA
Barley				
Harvested	95	80	79	92
Canola				
Harvested	74	65	59	79
Corn				
Harvested for grain	3	NA	NA	NA
Harvested for silage	34	20	27	34
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	73	65	56	80
Durum wheat				
Harvested	80	75	43	80
Flaxseed				
Harvested	70	58	23	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested	76	67	61	79
Oats				
Harvested	90	83	83	NA
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	76	70	75	NA
Safflower				
Turning color	99	90	75	NA
Harvested	30	25	14	26
Spring wheat				
Harvested	92	84	67	88
Winter wheat				
Planted	13	5	4	9
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	11	9	9	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	12	11	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.....	6.1	6.7	2.8	5.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	14	16	3	18
Short.....	50	58	10	28
Adequate.....	35	26	72	48
Surplus.....	1	--	15	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	12	4	20
Short.....	45	49	23	33
Adequate.....	40	39	62	43
Surplus.....	1	--	11	4

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.....	--	--	--	2
Poor.....	1	1	4	8
Fair.....	22	21	24	28
Good.....	60	62	62	51
Excellent.....	17	16	10	11
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	22	16	3	18
Poor.....	26	24	5	18
Fair.....	31	35	24	31
Good.....	20	23	50	27
Excellent.....	1	2	18	6
Safflower				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	6
Poor.....	4	4	2	6
Fair.....	44	51	29	26
Good.....	52	45	63	48
Excellent.....	--	--	5	14
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	9	3
Poor.....	--	--	11	8
Fair.....	24	19	13	25
Good.....	60	65	56	50
Excellent.....	16	16	11	14

NA – not available

(--)- zero